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Liberal pact depends on PR pledge in European elections

Steel, the Liberal leader, made clear yesterday that the future of party's pact with Labour to keep Government in power through other parliamentary session depends on Mr Callaghan's stating that his ministers support inclusion of proportional representation in legislation for direct elections to the European Parliament. The Liberal conference in Brighton today is expected to endorse Mr Steel's attitude, although opposition to the pact was voiced last night by Mr Cyril Smith, the former Chief Whip.



David Steel, the Liberal leader, acknowledging a standing ovation after his opening speech to the party assembly in Brighton yesterday.

Mr Steel's conference success underlines vital issue

David Wood, Liberal Editor, said the survival of the Liberals with Labour to keep Government in power through other parliamentary session depends on Mr Callaghan's stating that his ministers support inclusion of proportional representation in legislation for direct elections to the European Parliament. Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, said that clear at the first session of the Liberal Assembly in Brighton yesterday, "it is a free vote everyone", he said, "but I shall be watching the division lists most carefully. We have a right to expect the substantial majority of Labour members, and especially ministers whose continuance in office depends on us, to support the Government's recommendation."

Mr Basil Goldstone, the party's spokesman, reinforced that sentiment, saying that the pact with Labour was a bargain to keep Labour power. They wanted not only Liberal assurances, "we must also, in the light of the fact that Mr Callaghan's best intentions will ensure that all Government ministers and their assistants will vote for the European elections. Bill as it stands."

Mr Steel had a modest conference success with his rationalization of the argument for the pact-keeping Labour in power. When he sat down all the MPs and party leaders on the platform stood to him, and so did most of the delegates. But some Young Liberals sat on their hands, just as during the speech itself they occasionally hissed to make clear their dissent. There were plenty of Smith men in the hall.

One of the warmest outbreaks of applause came when Mr Steel said it was a decision of great constitutional importance to enter into a pact with the Labour Government, and however much it may be misrepresented by those who prefer the drama of confrontation politics, it marked the beginning of the return to sanity to this divided country.

Mr Nicholas Scott readopted: Mrs Colquhoun defeated Conservative MP seeks to appease critics

By Peter Strafford
Mr Nicholas Scott, MP for Kensington and Chelsea, succeeded last night in re-adopting a campaign to displace him as the candidate for the constituency. By 69 votes to 21 Chelsea Conservative Association accepted a resolution readopting him as its candidate.

Healey warning on inflation battle

From David Blake
Washington, Sept 27
Mr Healey and Mr Michael Blumenthal, the United States Treasury Secretary, today both stressed that they see the main burden of pulling the world out of recession still falling on the shoulders of big payments surplus.

At two separate conferences they said that only surplus countries could realistically take major stimulatory action. Mr Blumenthal added that he did not see many candidates for such action apart from Japan and Germany.

Mr Healey, cautious as to this view, although he added the smaller countries of Switzerland and The Netherlands to the list, does not seem to involve any backtracking on the clear indications he has been giving that he is thinking of introducing a new system of wage control unless pay starts to get out of control.

He stressed, however, that the Government had no intention of "throwing away" the gains it had made in the fight against inflation by what he called "stimulation of demand".

Some of those gains were spelt out in great detail in a speech made by Mr Healey to the annual session of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank here today.

He repeated his hope that inflation would be in single figures by the early part of next year, talked about the improvement in the balance of payments and gave a thankful nod to the role it had played in restoring confidence.

He also entered a strong defence of the Government's decision not to allow the value of the pound to go on rising, saying that it would be wrong to allow over-eager markets to get started to a position where the economy was endangered by a loss of competitiveness.

How to give reporting that touch of style

From Michael Leapman
New York, Sept 27
Newspaper English is not to be confused with correct English, as is evidenced by the dozens of readers who write to The Times daily, complaining when the former does not conform with the latter.

His broad philosophy is permissive, and is summed up under the heading: "Word Selection." It declares: "In general, any word with a meaning that is universally understood is acceptable unless it is offensive or below the normal standards of literary writing."

Take women. No hankypanky here. "Women should receive the same treatment as men in all areas of coverage. Physical descriptions, sexist references, demeaning stereotypes and condescending phrases should not be used."

More precise instructions are offered. Copy should not assume malice when both sexes are involved, as in "Jackson told newsmen" or "The taxpayer... he" when it can easily be said "Jackson told reporters" or "Taxpayers... they."

Copy should not express surprise that an attractive woman can be professionally accomplished, as in "Mary Smith doesn't look the part but she's an authority on..."

The theme is continued under the "divorce" heading. "The fact that a woman has been divorced should be mentioned only if a similar story about a man would mention his marital status."

Common pitfalls to be avoided include the misuse of the word "collide". To collide, two objects must be in motion; thus a car cannot collide with a lamp post.

The style book says dying should not be confused with dying, flamm with flout, flail with flav. Flounder with founder. A man who flounders is not a flibustier but a flibuster. A pom-pom is a rapid firing automatic weapon, a pompon a large ball of crepe paper or fluffed cloth, or a chrysanthemum flower.

All this in 276 pages. A miracle of condensation, a book to flout but not to flout, to help prevent newsmen (reporters) from both floundering and floundering. A boon to man, mankind, humanity, a person or an individual.

Who were the first to bottle the spirit of Scotland?

Dewar's were the first to sell whisky in branded bottles.

For those with a taste for the original.

Soviet Union halts nuclear tests in pact with Britain and US

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Sept 27
Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, surprised the United Nations General Assembly today by announcing a temporary suspension of underground nuclear tests.

In his long speech to the Assembly Mr Gromyko devoted considerable attention to nuclear weapons and their proliferation, and the broader question of disarmament. He spoke of the "grave consequences" for the security of African peoples and universal peace if South Africa were to get hold of nuclear weapons.

On disarmament, Mr Gromyko, while not mentioning the United States by name, spoke of the hypocrisy of proposing drastic weapons reductions while at the same time developing new weapons such as the neutron bomb.

He also entered a strong defence of the Government's decision not to allow the value of the pound to go on rising, saying that it would be wrong to allow over-eager markets to get started to a position where the economy was endangered by a loss of competitiveness.

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Armed gang foiled after raid at bank

The alertness of a team of security guards brought a £150,000 raid by seven armed men to an abrupt and unsuccessful end in the City of London yesterday.

The gang had attacked three security guards who were delivering money to a branch of Williams and Glyn's bank in Birchin Lane, and one guard had been shot in the leg.

But as they escaped with nine bags of money, their car, the third they had used, was rammed in Upper Thames Street by a second security van.

The men, some of them wearing balaclava masks, left all the stolen money in the car. They then commandeered a fourth car after forcing its chauffeur out into the road. It was later found abandoned.

Police said they were less than 10 minutes away when they got into a taxi. "We assume they hijacked it," an officer said.

Two journalists in strike dispute are barred from Labour conference

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter
Two journalists who refused to join an official dispute by their union are being barred from attending the Labour Party conference in Brighton next week.

Mr Nigel Duncan and Mr Michael Burrows, political correspondents for Westminster Press, will not be given credentials.

They are among four London-based members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) employed by Westminster Press, who are working normally. Eleven NUJ members are idle. Their dispute with the management arose because of support given to an NUJ strike at North of England Newspapers, part of the Westminster Press group, for a closed shop for more than a hundred journalists centred on Darlington.

Dwen warning n Rhodesia South Africa

David Owen has warned South Africa that continuing to support the white-minority Government in Rhodesia should reflect United Nations' peace package. In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, he hinted strongly that Britain would be in favour of sanctions against South Africa if such support was maintained. His warning referred to the eventual presentation of the peace package to the Security Council.

Freddie Laker plans to sign a letter intent today to buy two new DC10 jets for £35m. He estimates that the first flight to New York and back will be a profit of £11,325. But the second flight from Gatwick last night had only 111 passengers, well below the break-even figure of 189.

Mr Lynch arrives for London talks

Argo-Irish diplomatic relations will face a severe test today when Mr Callaghan has his first formal meeting with Mr Lynch since the new Prime Minister's election victory in June. Because of an Air Lingus dispute, the aircraft bringing Mr Lynch to London was diverted from Heathrow to Luton airport.

Mr Lynch, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, is expected to arrive in London today for talks with Mr Callaghan. The talks are expected to last for several days.

New technique for proving paternity

A new method based on the examination of up to 170 different factors in the blood, has been developed in West Germany, providing a virtually certain technique for proving or disproving the paternity of a child. It has been made public at a Hamburg conference.

Politicians and trade union and church leaders who took part in violent demonstrations and disputes were urged to stay away by Chief Superintendent Peter Hawkins, president of the Police Superintendents' Association, at its conference at Torquay.

Curbing violence

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HOME NEWS

Police chief advises politicians to shun violent rallies

From Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent
Torquay

Politicians and union and church leaders who got mixed up in violent demonstrations and disputes were urged to stay away in future by Chief Superintendent Peter Hawkins, president of the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales, at its annual conference in Torquay yesterday.

"By their mere presence they may have unwittingly sparked off potentially explosive situations, and been used by the mob elements as an excuse for greater violence and attack on the police," he said.

He wants the Home Secretary to use his influence with MPs and other leaders of society "to land support to the police in these traumatic situations by keeping away, rather than making our task even more difficult."

His speech reflected the concern felt by police about the inadequacy of the law concerning demonstrations over industrial and political disputes.

"It may be that there should be a return to subjective legislation, whereby those persons organising and leading group confrontations must shoulder responsibility and be answerable for what is likely to occur," he said.

During a two-day seminar in November, chief constables were examining the workings of the Public Order Act, 1936, and consider any changes.

The superintendents are concerned that the vagueness of the law makes it difficult to bring to justice people responsible for mob violence.

The weakness of the law was one of several ways in which the police were being undermined, according to Mr Hawkins of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

He called for a big pay rise and criticised lack of support for the police from leaders of society.

Equity, the actors' union, decided yesterday to approach the Home Office in its attempt to close the London production of the South African musical, *Ipi Tombi*.

Mr Peter Plouvier, the union's general secretary, said after an executive committee meeting that Equity wanted the Home Office to reverse its decision to give the company a new work permit.

"It's a simple dispute about whether a foreign unit company should be allowed to perform in this country indefinitely," he said. *Ipi Tombi* had been running here for two years, although most overseas unit companies worked in Britain for only six months.

Mr Plouvier said the dispute had "nothing whatsoever to do with the nationality of the company, where they have come from, or where they may ultimately go".

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Mr Scargill 'wanted to be arrested' PC alleges

By Craig Seton

Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' leader, wanted to be arrested when he appeared in support of pickets at the Grumwick film processing laboratory in Willesden, London, Police Constable Jeffrey Terry said at Barnet Magistrates Court, London, yesterday.

Mr Scargill, aged 39, of Worsbrough Dale, south Yorkshire, pleaded not guilty to two charges of obstructing the highway and obstructing the policeman on June 23.

Mr Richard Beckett, for the prosecution, said that Mr Scargill, with about 150 Yorkshire miners, had arrived at the Grumwick picket line. When the Grumwick workers' group arrived near the rear gates he had got in front of it four times before he was arrested. He had ignored police requests to keep to the pavement.

Mr Scargill said in evidence that he had cooperated with the police. The police special patrol group had started pulling people out of the crowd "indiscriminately". A police constable had taken hold of him, saying "You will do... I will have you", and had marched him to another pavement where he was released. He had not moved from the pavement when Police Constable Colin Woodcock arrested him. He denied returning to the road in front of the bus.

Secure places in community homes are a product of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1969, which attempted to shift the emphasis of detention

from punishment to care. But the Act retained what is sometimes called the "last resort" clause of previous legislation, allowing children convicted of serious crimes to be detained at the Home Secretary's discretion.

Judges may specify the period of detention when the offence, if it had been committed by an adult, would attract a prison sentence of 14 years or more.

Between 25 and 30 young offenders aged between 14 and 17, convicted of serious crimes, are being held in secure places in community homes. There are 136 such places available throughout England, with a further 113 approved or under construction. They are chiefly occupied by young people in one of three categories: the severely emotionally disturbed, who require a secure atmosphere; habitual absconders, who create trouble when let out; and those held for their own safety, from risk of suicide or of other young girls, some moral danger.

The Department of Health and Social Security, which has overall responsibility for provision of the secure places, issues guidelines on their construction, including advice on

smaller hauliers is that they are relatively immune from government sanctions and are willing to settle at around 15 per cent. The pace may already have been set, and the Government cannot expect help from the Transport and General Workers' Union, since the union has agreed a 10 per cent figure for firms able and willing to pay more.

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday that news of the 15 per cent figure was disturbing. Such a settlement could have the most severe consequences for the road haulage industry and for others as well. In my view, there could be no justification for passing on costs arising from it to customers.

A large firm of London undertakers has agreed to give between £8 and £10 a week to 100 workers who should have sorted out the £2.50-£4.00 a week. There have been delays in funerals in some areas because of a work-to-rule.

The London Association of Funeral Directors, representing 170 companies, meets today. Civil servants' protest: Union leaders representing more than 100,000 middle-management grades in the Civil Service last night handed in a protest at 10 Downing Street over the continued suspension of free

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Officialdom has no alternative to 'secure' place for convicted boy aged 12

By Alan Hamilton

The boy aged 12 sentenced at St Alban's Crown Court, Hertfordshire, on Monday to life imprisonment for manslaughter is probably the youngest person in detention in Britain for a serious criminal offence. His conviction, for attempted intercourse with a girl of four, who later died, illustrates the difficulty of what to do with very young offenders.

From the age of 14 offenders can be sent to a detention centre, and from 15 the courts can direct them to borstal, but the courts and the Home Office recognize that anything like a prison environment is too severe for a child of 12, whatever the nature of the offence.

Nevertheless, the boy will spend "his sentence" in a "secure place" in a local authority community home. That does not mean that he will be in solitary confinement, but his movements will be restricted and his visitors and visits home will require Home Office approval.

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from punishment to care. But the Act retained what is sometimes called the "last resort" clause of previous legislation, allowing children convicted of serious crimes to be detained at the Home Secretary's discretion.

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What to do with the very young offender

By Alan Hamilton

The boy aged 12 sentenced at St Alban's Crown Court, Hertfordshire, on Monday to life imprisonment for manslaughter is probably the youngest person in detention in Britain for a serious criminal offence. His conviction, for attempted intercourse with a girl of four, who later died, illustrates the difficulty of what to do with very young offenders.

From the age of 14 offenders can be sent to a detention centre, and from 15 the courts can direct them to borstal, but the courts and the Home Office recognize that anything like a prison environment is too severe for a child of 12, whatever the nature of the offence.

Nevertheless, the boy will spend "his sentence" in a "secure place" in a local authority community home. That does not mean that he will be in solitary confinement, but his movements will be restricted and his visitors and visits home will require Home Office approval.

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The Department of Health and Social Security, which has overall responsibility for provision of the secure places, issues guidelines on their construction, including advice on

smaller hauliers is that they are relatively immune from government sanctions and are willing to settle at around 15 per cent. The pace may already have been set, and the Government cannot expect help from the Transport and General Workers' Union, since the union has agreed a 10 per cent figure for firms able and willing to pay more.

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday that news of the 15 per cent figure was disturbing. Such a settlement could have the most severe consequences for the road haulage industry and for others as well. In my view, there could be no justification for passing on costs arising from it to customers.

A large firm of London undertakers has agreed to give between £8 and £10 a week to 100 workers who should have sorted out the £2.50-£4.00 a week. There have been delays in funerals in some areas because of a work-to-rule.

The London Association of Funeral Directors, representing 170 companies, meets today. Civil servants' protest: Union leaders representing more than 100,000 middle-management grades in the Civil Service last night handed in a protest at 10 Downing Street over the continued suspension of free

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HOME NEWS

Survey suggests cancer risk of low-dose radiation has been underestimated

From Pearce Wright
Science Editor
Whitchurch

The risk of cancer from exposure to low doses of radiation has been underestimated, Dr Alice Stewart, an eminent epidemiologist, told the Windscale public inquiry yesterday. She suggested the risk may be up to 20 times greater than is now accepted.

The evidence to support Dr Stewart's belief also shows a variation in sensitivity to cancer from radiation at different ages. The age group 25-45 is least vulnerable.

Her allegations came in a paper presented jointly with Mr George Kneale, a statistician with the Regional Cancer Registry, Birmingham, in evidence called by Sir Frank Layfield, QC, for the Town and Country Planning Association, which is opposing the application for a new £600m nuclear fuel reprocessing plant.

If the hazards are similar to those stated Dr Stewart, more substance must be attached to the argument that the risk to the general public by expansion at Windscale may be unacceptable. Not surprisingly, the new calculations are coming under heavy criticism, particularly from British Nuclear Fuels and the advisers to Cumbria County Council.

However, Dr Stewart's and Mr Kneale's findings come from a continuing study that forms

part of the only large scale survey so far of workers in the atomic energy industry, and to which Dr Stewart, of Birmingham University, has been consultant epidemiologist.

The project, called the Hanford survey, was started by Dr Thomas Mancuso for the former United States Atomic Energy Commission (now part of the Energy Research and Development Agency).

The investigation embraces workers at the Hanford works, in Washington state, which is a much larger version of BNFL's factories at Windscale, Cumbria.

The survey is unusual in that, although partly retrospective, it avoids the main disadvantages of such studies by relying entirely upon documentary evidence of radiation exposures and work histories compiled by operators who were legally obliged to keep those records. Also, unlike most retrospective surveys of industrial hazards, the Hanford data include all workers, whatever their subsequent fate.

For identification of causes of death, the survey relies on a system devised by Dr Mancuso in 1964, and made possible because all citizens of working age in the United States have a unique number—the social security number—attached to both their employment and health records, and every radiation worker wears a film badge.

As a way of tracing male

deaths, the Mancuso method is over 95 per cent accurate, and the Hanford survey followed 30,000 employees for an average of 15 years, the longest for over 29 years.

Dr Stewart maintains that a survey of that size is necessary to detect a risk of the magnitude that she and her colleagues found. This risk is described in terms of a "doubling dose", or the quantity of radiation that doubles the normal risk to an individual of getting cancer.

A doubling dose of 12 rads for all cancers has been calculated in the new work. That is a very small dose for an individual working with radiation.

She said that since their results were in variance with accepted estimates of the cancer risk from low-level radiation, there must be some fault either in their data or in their statistical analysis. Indeed, the Windscale inquiry added yesterday to considerable and confusing statistical jousting, which was eventually cleared by Mr Justice Parker.

He focused on the Hanford data, which might provide some indication of the incidence of cancer that might be expected among Windscale workers. The assessment of increased risk is calculated by examining the Hanford register and the national statistics. One argument is that a more rigorous

analysis would be achieved by comparing the groups at Hanford with identical age and social groups working in other industries where they are not exposed to radiation.

Mr Justice Parker wondered if that in fact might show a comparable cancer risk. As this work has not been done yet, there is obviously no answer.

Dr Stewart was not too impressed by British work showing the British nuclear industry as being very safe. The main evidence for that stance comes from a report by the National Radiological Protection Board based on Windscale workers, and presented in evidence on behalf of British Nuclear Fuels.

She said that report, considered from the viewpoint of an epidemiologist, had several grave defects. The first important mistake came in calculating confidence limits for estimating the numbers of cancers that might be induced by radiation.

A second fault, which she suggested was more important, was that the observed numbers of cancer deaths and all deaths were significantly lower than the consistent limits. No explanation was offered apart from a vague suggestion that Windscale workers might be of higher than average social class, she said.

However, the deficiency of deaths was so marked that all the workers would have to belong to professional and managerial classes to have such a low death rate.

Vienna, Sept 27.—Dr Sigvard Ekland, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) criticized the enemies of nuclear energy when he opened the agency's twentieth anniversary meeting on Monday.

"It is significant that doubts about nuclear energy are generally limited to sections of the more affluent public in affluent countries," he said. There was no objection to the use of nuclear energy in developing or socialist countries, he added.

Dr Ekland, aged 65, from Sweden, was today appointed director general of the agency for a fifth consecutive term.

UPL

Leading article, page 15

Safeguards against misuse of uranium are not adequate, physicist says

Canberra, Sept 27.—International safeguards against the use of uranium and nuclear weapons were "not worth the paper they were written on", Sir Mark Oliphant, the Australian nuclear physicist, told an energy conference here today.

"Although I have worked in nuclear physics and nuclear energy all my life, I cannot believe that power from uranium will be more than a passing phase in satisfying world energy needs, particularly as it is clear powerful nuclear weapons can be made

from plutonium extracted from spent nuclear fuel. Any nation determined to do so can make nuclear weapons," he said.

Sir Mark was one of the original technicians and scientists involved in the splitting of the atom in Britain in the years between the two world wars.

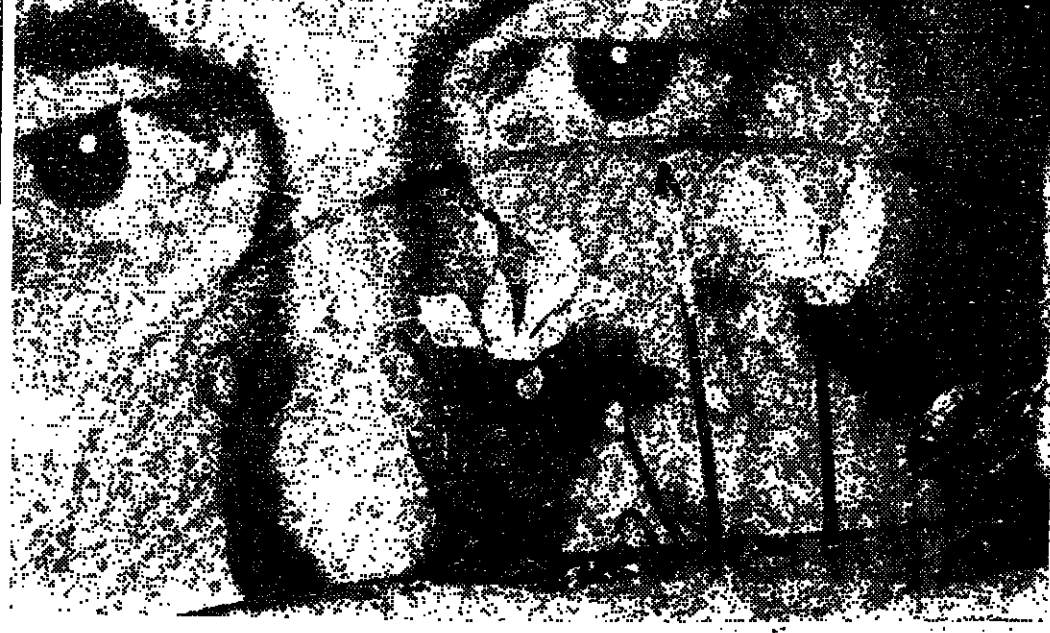
In Australia, nuclear weapons and the mining of uranium are important political issues. The Government believes that uranium will improve Australian trade with the EEC and solve many Australian development problems. Adequate safeguards are claimed by the

Fraser Government justify immediate mining.

Sir Mark criticized the haste to develop and sell Australia's energy resources abroad.

"Despite all that has been said there is no adequate safeguard against the illegal acquisition of plutonium and nuclear weapons in a world where the internal activities of nations are not answerable to some sort of world authority," he said.

The conference was organized by Australia's largest mining company, Broken Hill Proprietary, and attended by 200 scientists and engineers—Agence France-Presse.



Beauty in the eye of Mr Robin Archer, Cyclamen Society president, at the Royal Horticultural Society autumn show. Report, page 16.

Six men are remanded on bank charge

George Davis and five other men appeared before magistrates at Highbury Corner, London, yesterday, amid strict security measures, accused of a £50,000 bank robbery. All were remanded in custody to appear at Lambeth Magistrates' Court tomorrow week.

They are charged with taking money from the Bank of Cyprus branch in Seven Sisters Road, north London, last Friday.

Before the court was Mr Davis, aged 36, of Belton Way, Tower Hamlets; Michael Mahmud, aged 26, of Tilde Street, Tower Hamlets; James Robert Briggs, aged 43, of Laburnum Street, Hackney; Stephen Patrick Smith, aged 25, a furniture dealer, of City Road, Islington; Frederick Davis, aged 46, of Church Hill Walk, Homerton; and Derek William Felstead, aged 31, of Lorrimer Road, Southwark, all London.

Clash on abstinence by alcoholism groups

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Two leading organizations concerned with alcoholism have had a sharp disagreement over whether an alcoholic who overcomes his drinking habits can return to "controlled" drinking.

The Merseyside, Lancashire and Cheshire Council on Alcoholism in its annual report, published today, says that some alcoholics have been able to return to moderate drinking and more of them, especially those under 25, might be encouraged to seek help in something other than total abstinence could be offered.

The National Council on Alcoholism in a statement today says that the report is untimely and could be damaging. The only safe and proven treatment for alcoholics was total abstinence.

The report, it says, could lead only to confusion and would be totally misunderstood. The hypothesis that some alcoholics could return to controlled drinking was still under investigation and it was far too early to make public statements.

Controlled drinking had been used in behaviour therapy with carefully selected alcoholics under the supervision of psychologists. The Merseyside organization report had drawn on highly controversial material which had been commissioned by the American Institute of Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse.

Its director, Dr Ernest Noble, had said that abstinence must continue as the prospective goal in the treatment of alcoholism. The British report had not included that comment.

The Merseyside report admits that controlled drinking for alcoholics is a controversial matter. Mr W. H. Kenyon, executive director, agreed that there were difficulties and that there was no sure way of predicting which alcoholics might become able to drink moderately.

Dr J. S. Madden, consultant psychiatrist in charge of the Mersey Regional Alcohol and Drug Dependence Unit, says in the report that there is no doubt that some alcoholics do become able to drink in a moderate way. Research indicated that that was possible for between 3 per cent and 20 per cent of patients.

In contemporary British society abstinence was in a sense abnormal and difficult to maintain for alcoholics and non-alcoholics.

New Look at Alcoholism (MLCCA, BIS The Temple, Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 5RU, 50p). More women drinkers: More women are turning to drink, according to Home Office figures. Last year 14 per cent more women were found guilty of drunkenness in England and Wales than in 1975, against a 3 per cent increase among men. The highest incidence of drunkenness is among those aged 18, a Home Office report on drunkenness says.

Selling risk goods may become a crime

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs
Correspondent

New legislation on summer safety proposed by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection was out at a London conference today by Mr Fraser, the MP for State.

A big reform proposes that there should be a new duty on those who put goods on the market to ensure that goods are safe in a way that reaches the duty would come a criminal offence.

Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1961, no offence is committed, however dangerous the product, unless the duty is covered by regulation relating to the particular goods concerned.

The scope of the new duty to ensure safety would be very wide, but would not extend to goods which would be excluded. Enforcement would be the responsibility of trading standards officers the consent of the Secretary of State would be required by any prosecution.

The Secretary of State also has power to approve published standards while his opinion deals with safety aspects of any duty. Compliance with safety aspects of the appropriate standards would then be a statutory duty and an absolute defence against prosecution.

The Department would be seeking powers to provide a supply of information about goods, and to supply information to suppliers who are marked as dangerous before the dangers are real to publish public warnings.

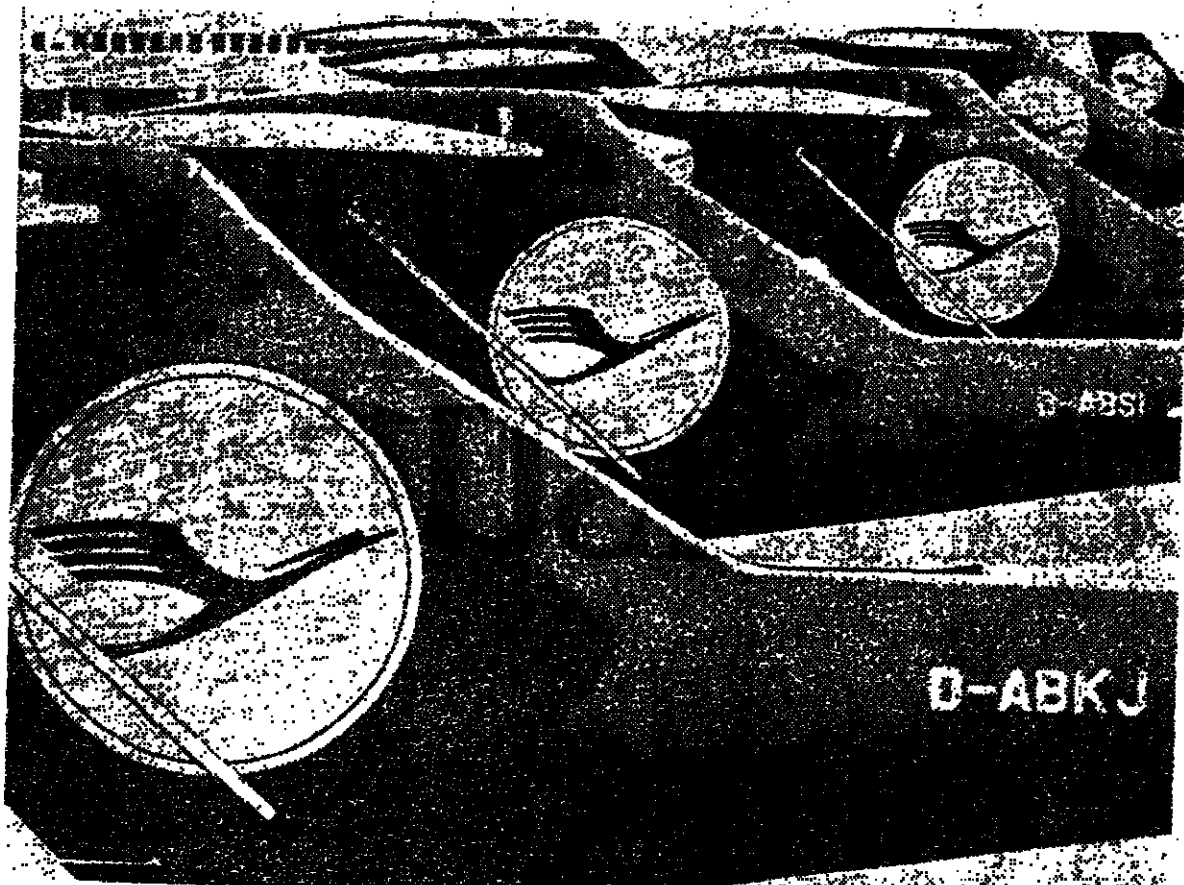
Mr Fraser said he had "clashed" somewhat reluctantly with the trade to introduce a system of liability for defective products. "We do propose to interfere with existing civil liabilities or remedy in relation to defective or dangerous products."

Tugmen refuse to undock ship

Tugmen at Milford Haven yesterday refused to undock Singapore-registered oil tanker Okech until it receives adequate wages, a time and holiday pay.

The ship was due to sail for the Gulf Oil refinery jetty, the International Transport Federation said the PFI and Polynesian crew are being paid only half the agreed international pay rates.

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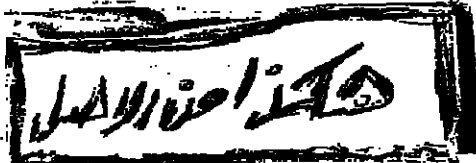


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Register of social workers proposed

By Pat Healy

Proposals for a register of social workers and a general social work council with powers to remove people from the register are being sent to the main social services organizations for comment.

The proposals mark the first important step towards making social work a profession and its practitioners publicly accountable.

The proposed council would be set up by law and operate in a similar way to the General Medical Council (GMC). But there would be no question of social workers being unable to work unless they were registered, Mrs Sylvia Wolfe, chairman of the joint steering group which has produced a discussion paper on the issues, said yesterday.

The council would have the power to remove social workers from the register, for example, while complaints were being investigated," she said. "But I would not expect that to happen often, any more than it

does with the GMC. It will act as a protection for the public, who would know that there was a body keeping a watch on standards."

The steering group, set up earlier this year by the British Association of Social Workers, was asked to examine how social workers could be given some form of accreditation. It consists of representatives of all the main professional social work organizations, with observers from the Home Office, Department of Health and Social Security, and the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work.

The group believes that professional training must be seen as only the starting point. The next stage is competence in practice, which the group defines as the use, maintenance and improvement of knowledge, skill and experience.

It suggests that social workers should be eligible for inclusion on a "register of accredited social workers" only after two years under the guidance of a senior, experienced colleague. Mrs Wolfe said yesterday that the effect would be that eventually only the most experienced and skilled social workers would be registered, and more sensitive and responsive cases without supervision.

In several recent public child death cases the social worker directly responsible has been inexperienced and usually well qualified. There is no obstacle in the way of achieving rapidly the principle that only the most experienced and skilled social workers handle such cases.

First, there is an over shortage of social workers, and secondly, they are not professionally qualified. Public spending restraints mean there is little chance of improving the quantity or quality for some time.

The group envisages that the new council will take at least five years to set up. It will consider precise details of how it should be done until it meets in the new year.

Inquiry into the working of Parliament urged

By Penny Symon

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for South-on-Trent, South, has urged the Prime Minister to set up a royal commission on the functioning of Parliament and the role of MPs.

He is concerned about reports that unnamed MPs received retainers from the Peachey Property Corporation. Parliament was rightly regarded as the watchdog of our national institutions, he said, but it was now time for an independent and searching scrutiny of the watchdog itself.

"I think it is regrettably true to say that there is today widespread concern about the functioning of Parliament and the role of its members. I think we should recognize that public anxiety exists and can only be allayed by independent scrutiny."

The commission's terms of reference should include examination of the question whether MPs should be permitted to hold outside jobs or whether they should work full time on their parliamentary duties; whether they have adequate research aid and facilities for scrutinizing and criticizing the executive effectively; how far parliamentary procedure permits the effective operation of Parliament; the relationship between Lords and Commons; and the extent to which the powers of Parliament and its members are being circumscribed by EEC regulations.

UPL

Minister justifies closure of 20,000 hospital beds

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

There was a net loss of about 20,000 beds in National Health Service hospitals between the end of 1975 and 1976, Mr Roper, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday.

In a speech to health and local authority employees in Manchester in which he vigorously defended hospital closures, he said the number of beds had been declining for 20 years of those lost about 16,000 were in psychiatric hospitals, since government policy was to get psychiatric patients out of hospital and into the community.

The standard of care in the health service could be maintained only if surplus hospitals were closed and services reorganised more efficiently," he said. He saw no reason why

relics of nineteenth-century philanthropy that had not lived their useful life should be preserved.

Closures were necessary to pay for better short-stay hospital services as well as better services for long-stay patients. He assured his audience that he would agree to no closure unless satisfied with the positive services provided. "Agonising reports have given the impression that hospital closures are evidence that the health service is being run down and is doing less well. That is not true."

If the population in an area dropped, as it did in London by a million over 10 years, it was absurd to keep all the London hospitals open when new hospitals had been planned, built and opened in areas of population growth.

Suspended chief constable to retire

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Mr Stanley Parr, suspended Chief Constable of Lancashire, who is due to face disciplinary charges next month, is seeking permission to retire. Mr Parr, chief constable since 1974, was suspended on full-pay in March and has since had his sixtieth birthday.

The suspension came after the report of an inquiry led by Sir Douglas Osmond, Chief Constable of Hampshire, into certain allegations against Mr Parr. Mr Parr satisfied the committee on some matters but an independent solicitor later drew up disciplinary charges which will be heard in private by a tribunal.

Summons over royal yacht for fishing boat

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Victor Ernest Rixon, aged 46, the master of a fishing boat, was accused at Plymouth Magistrates' Court yesterday of bringing his vessel too close to the royal yacht Britannia during the Queen's jubilee visit to the South-west. He is also accused of colluding with the minisweeper HMS Dittisham on the same day, August 6.

The hearing was adjourned until October 28 after the bench were told that Mr Rixon, Banwell Street, Brixton, Plymouth, intended to plead not guilty.

Busmen on strike

Three thousand busmen in Sheffield and South Yorkshire staged a one-day strike in support of a pay claim yesterday.

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Give the appeal, voiced over their Liberal benches, his was a bold summons to build on present for time, arguing that the Liberal case for a continuing "bold over government" was "the strongest" and that greater success was made "by the agreement." Boldness could revive their present claims in the opinion polls.

Mr Steel had such a good reception that a stranger might have thought that his house- was "packed." Where were the party's pious nannies, where the young Liberal tigers of yore? There those with no stomach for the fight, as Mr Steel taunted, already departed?

But Mr Steel chose the lofter, some might think more fanciful, path. Thanks to the Liberals, the nation's economy was suffering. The country also was being returned to sanity, spared continuing confrontation politics. Such statements drew deep and surging applause.

But where Mr Steel faltered in his speech there was little complaint. After all his exaggeration, he said that they should not exaggerate what could be achieved by the Liberals. He said that the Liberals would meet the constant demand in the party to threaten to break off the agreement unless Mr Callaghan complied.

The Liberals' sanction would be tantamount to capital punishment, he said, and "you can only inflict it once" — as Lloyd George had said in 1931.



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GLASGOW
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Mr David Steel's daring celebrations of the blessings in stability and economic recovery which he had flowing from the moment the Labour Government was elected, the dog of the Labour Government so captivated his party assembly yesterday that delegates seemed not to notice some real innovations.

The leader was punctuated by 29 bursts of applause, much chuckling and only one fear before being given a standing ovation.

But the speech, which slipped past the microphone that was ready not just to purport but to pre-empt, was a well-laboured but for a full coalition "inside the next government" and "of whatever colour" and "That should have provoked some boos. Delegates spent so much time giggling at and cheering his jokes against Conservatives that the few I lobbied after he had really queried whether he had really even half suggested a coalition with the Tories."

Delegates also seemed to miss the snapper of news that Liberal desires were being required by some Chancellor's agreement to "concessions" to the private industry. Perhaps that escaped them because, at 52 minutes, the speech was rather compendious.

It may be that after years of hearing a dull and sometimes incoherent American, secretary I am

overimpressed by the articulation of British speakers. But I thought Mr Steel's an effective performance and a distinct achievement not to pall at such length—particularly after lunch.

He came to himself, himself, perhaps, only once: he will save his party in time for the next election. He did so by taking the offensive: after seeming briefly to come as a penitent.

However unlikely he looked in that part, he concerned himself as a statesman concerned only with national interest and turning small-minded party concern even though he sympathized, he said, with party critics.

Given the apophorensions some Liberals voiced over their own peril, his was a bold summons to build on present fortune, arguing that the Liberal case for "a continuing" bold government was "the stronger the greater the success we make of the agreement". Boldness could revive their present slump in the opinion polls.

Mr Steel had such a good conception that a stranger might have suspected a "house" was suspected. "Where were the party's pious beliefs, where the young Liberal fighters of yore? Where those with no stomach for the fight as Mr Steel insisted, already departed?

critics, Mr Cyril Smith, MP, was nowhere to be seen. There was not even an empty chair for him among the platform MPs constantly reformed by the absence of the absence reduced them to a dozen.

Mr Steel's pugacity surprised somewhat. Some of his colleagues had confided at a dinner—the previous night that he would "take" the 13 Liberals and "win" the Callaghan's concessions to Liberal policies. That would quell the disquiet, it was said.


But Mr Steel chose the loftier, some might think more fruitful, path. Thanks to the Liberals, the nation's economy was not only better, the country also was being returned to sanity, spared continuing confrontation politics. Such statements drew deep and sustaining applause.

But where Mr Steel faltered in his logic there was little complaint. After all his exaggeration, he said that they should not exaggerate what could be achieved by the Liberal Government in reference to the constant demand in the party to threaten to break off the agreement unless Mr Callaghan complied.

The Liberal's sanction would mean a return to capital punishment, he said, and "you can only inflict it once", as Lloyd George had said in 1931.

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HOME NEWS

13% inflation by year end, minister pledges

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, made an unqualified prediction yesterday of 13 per cent inflation by Christmas. "The Retail Price Index will show that the retrospective year-on-year rate is down to about 13 per cent," he said. Speaking at a conference of the Food Manufacturers' Federation in London, he said: "The six monthly average will show that the current inflation rate is even lower. That would still not be good enough, he went on, because national economic problems would not be solved until Britain's inflation rate was as low as that of her industrial competitors.

"The target for 1978 must be single-figure inflation," Mr Hattersley said. "Another year of sensible wage settlements will ensure that all the economic forces are pulling in the anti-inflationary direction throughout next winter and spring."

Replying later to the charge that industrial confidence was fragile, Mr Hattersley said: "One of the problems British industry is that it needs certainty more than other industries do. I think industry will be better when entrepreneurs fulfil their traditional function, which is to take risks."

Two store groups announced price cuts on instant coffee yesterday in Mr Hattersley's campaign to mitigate the impact of the next price rise by curbing profits. Woolworth said it would reduce a four-ounce jar of Nescafé and Maxwell House coffee by 5p to £1.13p. International Stores will cut Nescafé by 6p to £1.16.

Exam standards 'have not fallen'

Mr Richard Body, Conservative MP for Boston with Holland, has received a grade

pass at O level in English literature after taking the examination in response to criticism of educational standards in his constituency.

He said the questions were set out quite clearly, so that short cuts could not be taken. "My impression is that the standards have not dropped and parents have not got too much to worry about."

Importance of community aid to leisure

By a Staff Reporter

The success of an experiment to improve cultural opportunities in four contrasting areas of Britain is to be studied in a series of regional conferences this winter.

A report published yesterday says that a small amount of money can greatly increase leisure activities if voluntary organizations and local schools and buildings are used properly.

The four experimental teams set up in 1973 managed with only £1m to mount 400 projects.

The two-year experiments took place in Stoke-on-Trent, Sunderland, Dumbarton and Newcastle, all chosen because of their distance from regional centres. Local authorities and sports and arts organizations in the areas asked to set up local groups of volunteers.

Buses for the physically handicapped were bought, equipment for sports groups

EEC approves lower wheat seed standards

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Ministers said yesterday that they had won EEC permission to reduce germination standards for wheat seed. The move was necessary to avoid a seed shortage after crops in much of Britain had been damaged by persistent rain at harvest time.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said sales would be allowed until mid-November of first and second generation winter wheat seed with minimum germination of 80 per cent.

"Normally, wheat seed must have a germination of at least 85 per cent in order to be marketed," a ministry official said. "This year germination levels have been affected by the prolonged wet weather of recent weeks, and insufficient supplies are coming forward at the normal level."

Mr John Fotheringham, president of the United Kingdom

Agricultural Supply Trade Association (Ukasta), said: "A request was put to Brussels for permission to market 10,000 tonnes of winter wheat at 80 per cent germination. We hope this relaxation of the standard will ease the flow of seed on to farms."

Mr Martin George, a vice-president of Ukasta, said supplies of home-grown wheat suitable for milling might reach the average of about 1.8 or 1.9 million tonnes a year. "They will be jolly lucky if they do," he said.

The association believed that in quantity the 1977 grain harvest would establish a clear record of more than 16.5 million tonnes. The main reasons were the large rise in barley sowings, better plant breeding and better weather than in the previous two seasons, Mr Fotheringham said.

Mr Jenkins suggests radical new food policy

By Hugh Clayton, Agricultural Correspondent

Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the EEC Commission, came to London yesterday to propose replacing the common agricultural policy with one closer to the precepts of the Treaty of Rome and more radical than many of the reforms suggested by consumer and commercial lobbies.

"It has often been said that the consumer should have a greater say in the fixing of prices under the CAP," he told members of the Food Manufacturers' Federation. "I strongly share that view." The word "strongly" was not included in his written text.

He soon showed that his vision of a new policy went far beyond crude revenge for years of dominance by farmers.

There were three main elements in his plan. First, he wanted to abandon the system of assessing the ability of farmers to produce and then providing expensive machinery to absorb the surpluses they were paid to accumulate. He wanted food needs to be assessed in terms of likely demand.

"I do not think it is very useful to pursue the issue in terms of consumers always wanting the lowest possible prices and farmers wanting the highest possible incomes," he said. "We need to look at the question more in terms of what food supplies Britain is likely to require in the next five or ten years, and what pattern of agricultural production and prices is needed to fulfil that need."

The commission had already persuaded ministers to award increases in farm support far below rises in costs. It was about to propose changes in beef support that would bring price benefits to consumers.

The second part of Mr Jenkins's plan was the elimination of "green currencies", the devices by which EEC farm prices are expressed in cash to farmers in each member country. That would end the monetary compensatory amounts by which shop prices of food are held down at the expense of farm incomes.

Thirdly, Mr Jenkins wanted to widen policy-making debate in Brussels beyond the common agricultural policy. In the past, consumers, food manufacturers and indeed finance ministers have not always succeeded in bringing their proper influence to bear on the agricultural decisions," he said.

Taken individually, the three proposals are not revolutionary. But a common agricultural policy to which they had all been applied fully would bear little resemblance to the present one. National food policies would also be overturned. Mr Jenkins showed that the commission has accepted the British food processors' demand that the common agricultural policy should be replaced by a common food policy.

WEST EUROPE



Royal christening: Two kings, two queens and a president were among the 700 guests who attended the christening yesterday of Princess Victoria Ingrid Alice Desirée, first-born child of King Carl Gustaf of Sweden and his German-born wife, Queen Silvia. The ceremony took place in the palace chapel in Stockholm and was performed by Archbishop Olof Sundby.

Among the royal guests were King Olaf and Queen Sonja of Norway, Denmark's Queen Dowager Ingrid and Princess Benedikte, the Swedish Prince Zephyr and his British-born wife Princess Lilliana, and the Belgian royal couple, King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola. Finland was represented by President Kekkonen.

French Premier thanks Gaullists but makes no concessions

From Ian Murray

Paris, Sept 27

The Gaullist party conference opened in Meaux today with a storm of stirring messages from M. Barre, the Prime Minister, and against the background of the civil war being waged in the Union of the Left.

M. Barre, whose visit to Moscow made it impossible for him to attend the conference, thanked the Gaullists in his message for supporting the economic and financial policies of the Government with their votes, policies of which they do not wholly approve. For his expression of thanks was double-edged.

"The Government has not deviated from its determined line for a year," he said. "Despite the pressures from all kinds of different interests and the temptations which are created here and there during an election period," M. Jacques

Chirac, the Gaullist leader, has suggested more than once that the economy needs to be expanded if the economic difficulties are to be overcome.

Clearly M. Barre is not to be influenced by such suggestions. "The electoral term must not prevail over the national and international realities which alone must inspire the actions of the Government," he said in his message.

Turning his attention to the difficulties of the Union of the Left, M. Barre said that there was now ample evidence that the left-wing parties lacked the ability to govern together. "These events have begun to modify the political scene profoundly."

No group can be more aware of this profound change than the Gaullists. They have grown strong by standing firmly against the twin-headed monster of the Union of the Left. To them there has been

no difference between Socialist and Communist governments. They have shared scorn on the behalf of President Giscard and his Gaullist allies, and that a nation divided in two monoliths is a disaster.

The falling apart of the Union of the Left undermines the Gaullist philosophy. By his strong stand against Communist pressures, M. Barre has given the lie to many of M. Chirac's arguments. It will be interesting to see how pragmatic the Gaullist leader will be when he addresses the conference on Thursday.

Meanwhile, M. Barre has been preparing for a press conference tomorrow, when he will break his silence on the issues that led to the breakdown of talks to find a common programme of the left last week.

Soviet trip brings political benefits to M Barre

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Sept 27

No sooner is he back from his successful trip to Washington than M. Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, is off again tomorrow, this time to Moscow.

The purpose of the five-day visit is the annual meeting of the Franco-Soviet "grand commission" set up after General de Gaulle's ground-breaking journey to Russia in June, 1966.

But this is only a pretext. The commission's meetings are presided over by the finance ministers of both countries, and M. Barre, who combines the post of prime minister with that of minister of the economy, is a key figure in the French economic team.

M. Barre is assured of a warm welcome and his meeting with President Brezhnev, even though this is not provided for in the official programme. The French Communist Party, which is accusing the Government of setting French independence down the river and leading the country to economic ruin.

pared to the trade total in the five years up to 1975: it is regarded in both countries as quite feasible.

But M. Barre's visit is much more important than its ostensible purpose. At home his political stature will be consolidated by the journeys to Washington and Moscow and by his projected visit to China early next year. This will strengthen his image as a statesman, while the election campaign begins next year.

But even more important to Frenchmen than the Prime Minister's personal image is the evidence the visit provides of the Soviet Union's assessment of where its best interests lie in the French elections.

M. Barre is assured of a warm welcome and his meeting with President Brezhnev, even though this is not provided for in the official programme. The French Communist Party, which is accusing the Government of setting French independence down the river and leading the country to economic ruin.

Madrid policeman shot dead on execution anniversary

From William Chittenden

Madrid, Sept 27

Political fanatics shot a police captain dead here today, exactly two years after the execution by firing squad of five political activists.

The murder, at point-blank range, was carried out shortly after a Cortes (parliament) committee agreed to debate the granting of a total amnesty for politically motivated crimes of violence.

The victim, Florentino Harguedas Carretero, was shot in the back of the neck, near his home in the working class suburb of Carabanchel.

Six hours after the murder, the semi-official news agency Cifra received a telephone call in Barcelona from the unknown Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Organization of Spain claiming responsibility for the killing. The Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Patriotic Front (Frep), which was immediately suspected of the murder, was two years ago believed to be a group of anarchists who were active in the streets of Madrid.

Posters have been put up in the city by extremist groups commemorating the second anniversary of the execution which was carried out shortly after the death of General Franco. A demonstration in memory of the five has been called for later this evening.

Soon after the murder, anti-fascist groups were meeting here to discuss the situation and police patrols were strengthened. The murder has caused discomfort in the police, which is already under increasing criticism, particularly from the Socialists, for their slow adaptation to the return of democracy in Spain.

Dutch search canals for kidnap gang. The Hague, Sept 27. Heavily armed Dutch police are searching the country's waterways for an overboarded hired yacht that may have on board Dutch-born kidnapers.

More police are searching West German canals along the 200-mile border with West Germany. "We have a pretty good reason to believe Schleyer is being held here," the Justice Ministry said. "Do you think for a moment we would put on a massive search for him if we did not?"

Officials said they were searching for a yacht hired by West Germany but not returned on the day it was due.

Scientists establish firmer tests of paternity

From Our Own Correspondent

Bonn, Sept 27

The existence of an infallible method of proving paternity has been disclosed at an international congress in Bonn.

It is based on the analysis of between 150 and 200 different enzymes in the blood, including enzymes in the sperm and egg cells which are now known to hereditary Professor Hansmann Hoppe, of the West German central blood transfusion centre, told the congress.

Dr John Patrick O'Brien, director of Ireland's blood transfusion service, said that the method can now detect with about 99 per cent certainty any man who is not the father of a particular child.

Continuing research, producing further knowledge which increases the accuracy of the method, he added, is being carried out in biological laboratories in many countries.

Any attempt by a father to deceive a court by a relatively simple check of blood groupings, paternity can be excluded with certainty only in a small proportion of cases.

The latest developments in this field are a principle at the congress on forensic medicine, where experts from many countries are discussing the use of the new method in law.

Professor Hoppe said that general public was aware that such an accurate method which has been built up by a series of experiments over the past 10 years, existed. "Women, in particular, should know about this," he said.

Unknown to most people, the method had already been used on occasion in West Germany, where a father could be excluded from paternity by a blood test to help solve a paternity case.

The tests are useful not only in maintenance claims by married mothers, but also when a husband claims that a child borne by his wife is not his.

International Oenological and Bottling Equipment Exhibition

SIMEI

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In Italy: a complete selection of the most modern machines for oenology & bottling

Pavilions 13-14 of the Milan Trade Fair

Entrance from Porta Carluccio (in front of Velodromo Vigorelli) and via Galvani

The SIMEI International biennial exhibition, is the largest specialized show, organized in Italy, of winemaking and bottling machinery and equipment, as well as equipment for bottling other drinks and liqueurs, and is attended by over 200 exhibitors representing most of the biggest Italian and foreign companies in this field.

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All information can be obtained from: SIMEI - Via San Vittore 3 - Milano (Italy) - Tel. 02/5030-3030

Reuters man resigned over management reshuffle

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Jonathan Fenby, aged 34, resigned yesterday over a management reshuffle at Reuters, which has led to his resignation from the rapidly expanding news agency, where he was editor of the world service.

Details of the changes were given briefly in The Times yesterday. Mr Fenby's headquarters in Fleet Street Mr Michael Nelson, the general manager, said that Mr Fenby's decision to resign had been personal. The company had decided to appoint an editor-in-chief to coordinate all editorial operations, involving general news and economic services.

In those circumstances it was considered desirable that Mr Fenby should not continue as editor of the world service, since he had been offered an alternative post. Mr Nelson described as "good". But Mr Fenby had refused it.

The new editor-in-chief is Mr Michael Kempe, aged 40, based

on an editorial man but later on Reuters' manager in Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr Jack Henry takes over as editor of the world service.

The other important new post, Mr Nelson said, was the appointment of Mr Ian Cappe, the trading manager, to the new post of deputy manager in North America, where Reuters news was now distributed to 1,100 cities, compared with 14 cities 25 years ago. The executive committee has been reduced from eight to five members, reflecting the need for the senior executive group to be more flexible and to make more effective use of their time.

Mr Nelson pointed out that Reuters had increased its turnover from £11,986,600 in 1971 to £41,922,000 last year by selling more of its services and introducing new ones.

There was no reason to believe that the reshuffle signified any downgrading of the editorial side, he said.

Independent radio in 15 new areas proposed

By Kenneth Gossling

Plans for independent local radio in 15 new areas were announced yesterday.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority, which said it aimed to service areas where no local radio exists, is to select six or eight areas for a trial batch to be developed "with all possible speed", according to the director general, Sir Brian Young.

The BBC is also working on a priority list of stations which it hopes will be given the go-ahead after the Home Secretary has considered the Autumn report.

Sir Brian said independent radio is being launched on the operation of the 19 existing stations had been successful with net advertisement.

The IBA is also proposing that "associate" stations should be developed from existing franchise areas, as well as the twinning of pairs of small stations. It plans to create a new style of independent local radio station offering extensive rural coverage.

The list of proposed stations published yesterday covers Bournemouth, Cardiff, Tyneside, Aberdeen, the Clyde in Lancashire, Corwen, Northampton, Luton, Norwich, a site in west Yorkshire such as Huddersfield, Peterborough, Southend, Gloucester/Cheltenham, Exeter/Torquay and the western side of Northern Ireland.

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TV interviews show up Rhodesia Premier's evasions

Mr Smith persists in ambiguity

From Our Correspondent
Kuala Lumpur, Wednesday morning

A Japanese airliner with 69 passengers and 11 crew crashed into a rubber plantation about 20 miles north of here last night and burst into flames.

At least 17 people were killed, a spokesman for Japan Airlines (JAL) said. Forty-six people were reported seriously injured.

The aircraft, a DC8 on a flight from Tokyo via Hong Kong, came in too low and crashed into the rubber forest near Kuala Lumpur when it lost radio contact.

Then came a distress signal followed by silence. Shortly after that the captain of a Malaysian Airlines jet reported sighting a huge ball of fire about 10 miles north of Kuala Lumpur over the city at the time and the torrential rain hampered rescuers.

A fireman said the aircraft broke in two on impact and the forward section erupted in flames.

Helicopters took the survivors from the crash site into a makeshift field hospital at the airport, from where ambulances rushed them to hospitals near the airport.

A spokesman for the airline said there were 54 Japanese and 15 other nationals among the passengers.

One survivor told the Japan Broadcasting Corporation that the jet crashed just after an announcement: "We are now arriving at Kuala Lumpur International Airport."

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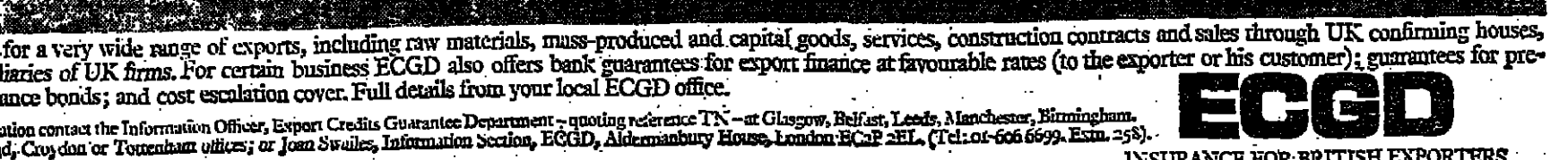
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Mr F.P. Korn OBE is Marketing and Sales Director of Constructors John Brown Ltd, engineering contractors, who recently won a £50m overseas contract for a high density polyethylene plant.



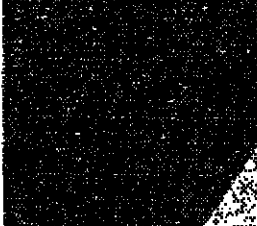
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UP.

a London talks

to say anything about the visit and British officials described its purpose as a review of international affairs.

There was no doubt of the significance ministers attached to the talks, however. Before he saw Mr. Callaghan, Mr. Brzezinski lunched with Sir John Hunt, Secretary to the Cabinet, and Sir Michael Palliser, Head of the Diplomatic Service.



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THE ARTS



Pont Scethin on the old London to Harlech coach road, by Fay Godwin

The artist and the onlooker

One of the questions that seems to bedevil the relationship between some contemporary artists and their audiences is: how much effort may one reasonably expect from the non-specialist spectator? Should entering a gallery be comparable to a burst of Tippex to a non-musician (not easy, but rich and, above all, interesting), or should it be like trying to imagine what milk tastes like from a dry responsible of Marvel? The irony of it is that so much new art was originally concerned with the breaking down of barriers between artist and audience. Now, of course (cf Dr Spock, recent educational reports, reacceptance of Rattigan) barriers—or clear delineations of responsibility—simply state the look of things back into fashion.

Nigel Henderson, a retrospective of whose work may be seen at the Anthony d'Offay gallery until October 22, was once a Bloomsbury idealist whose experience in the last war led him to find the training at the Slade (where he went in 1945 at the age of 28) fearfully out of whack with the atom-smashing world. There seemed to be a good

deal of posing and comely bohemia twiddle. Before the war he had been interested in surrealism and collage, as well as the linked visual aspects of aerial views and microscopic dissections, and at the Slade he continued to develop his scientific interests. Paolozzi was a fellow-student, and Henderson's photographs demonstrate their shared interest in incorporating bomb debris and other objects into their work. (Paolozzi once said that the artist tries to arrest flux and to perpetuate a single moment, just as Joshua prayed that God should stop the sun in its course.)

At that time Henderson made a series of documentary photographs, mainly in the East End, which are neither nostalgic nor didactic, but simply state the look of things c. 1950. Nearly all his work involves photographic processes, but much of the image-making is done in the dark room by means of additional dissections. He contributed to the Paolozzi/Aiton & Peter Smithson exhibit in the 1956 This Is Tomorrow exhibition, and Lawrence Alloway's introduction to his catalogue reminds us of the then-exciting idea of integration between

spectator and audience: "The freedom of the artist and architect concerned is communicated to the spectator who cannot rely on the learned responses called up by a picture in a frame, a house in a street, words on a page. As he circulates the visitor will have to adjust to the character of each exhibit."

Have we expected too much of the spectator, and has the artist correspondingly put less imaginative effort and intellectual rigour into his exhibits? Certainly not. Henderson's written biography of his concern to bridge gaps between classes and cultures (an admirable précis of which is provided in the catalogue) might be more interesting than the sum total of the images. Yet I feel sympathy with the latter, with the treated photograph of a trenchcoat which becomes a landscape of experience, with the triple self-portrait that took six years to complete. His progress over 30 years represents a generation map worthy of close inspection. Photographs easily arouse no immediate response, but the images do not usually have the survival capacity of painted groups. However, Fay Godwin's

graphs impinge collectively as definitive statements of place. Her current exhibition at the Anthony Stokes gallery (3 Langley Court, off Long Acre) until October 8, is of photographs taken to accompany a commentary by Shirley Toulson on The Drovers' Road of Wales (published by Wildwood). The images have a great deal of depth and little artifice, drawing the eye along the ancient tracks and stone walls, which often stand under skies darker than the mountain rocks. Fay Godwin does not use technical tricks for effect; when she does bring the camera in close, it is to observe phenomena that would attract the curious naked eye: lichen on stones that may have been laid in prehistoric times, flooded grass whose blades float like thin spears; hundreds of damp spiders' webs pierced by gorse. Two photographs prompt a brief meditation on life's cycle. In one, a frog swims freely, its legs tucked in an energetic V. In the other, a dead sheep lies in a meadow, the swirls of dry winter grass mingling with its partially frayed and scattered fleece.

Paddy Kitchen

David Blake on 'Toussaint'

In September, 1802, Wordsworth penned a moving sonnet to the black revolutionary leader Toussaint L'Ouverture, then languishing a political captive in jail in the Jura mountains. Toussaint died the following year; the year, ironically, in which Saint-Domingue, at that time France's richest colony, gained the independence which the slave uprising of 1791 had boldly and bloodily foreshadowed. Toussaint's proper allies, Wordsworth wrote, were "exultations, agonies, love and Man's unconquerable mind". And composer David Blake, whose operatic study of Toussaint has its world premiere tonight at the Coliseum, is happy to echo Wordsworth's sentiments: "There's no doubt, Toussaint was a huge political figure, a genius with amazing political and military skills."

David Blake was born and educated in London, with opera more or less on his doorstep. "I was lucky; I met one musician in my year at Cambridge who came from Wigan and he'd never seen an opera in his life. Going to East Berlin, though, to study on a Mendelssohn scholarship, with Hanns Eisler, was the really important thing for me. It brought me into contact with Brecht's theatre; his ideas on opera, especially the two essays he wrote in connection with Matinghary, influenced me a lot. And there was Felstein at the Komische Oper. His productions had such an impact because of their enormous realism and attention to detail. He even made Offenbach's Bluebeard into a memorable theatrical experience; and that's a pretty poor piece by any standards."

After Berlin Blake moved to an academic post at York University, with thoughts of writing an opera very distant indeed. "I suppose if I'd been down here in London rubbing shoulders with more people in the arts world the chances are someone would have suggested my doing an opera. After all, I'd been begged by two operas most of my musical life: Wozzeck sitting on one shoulder and Figaro on the other. But it wasn't to be until Lord Harewood offered me the Black Jacobins. C. L. R. James's book on the 1791 rising, and from the outset it was fairly obvious to me that he was a magnificent subject for a piece of lyric-drama.

"Some of Toussaint is very lyrical; in fact our conductor, Mark Elder, has started a private joke at rehearsals, doing a bit of mock-chiding. 'The passage is very moving, David, are you sure it's what you meant?' And of course it would be absurd to follow through Brechtian ideas about music theatre to the point where you obliterate lyrics altogether. The more you bring vocal writing towards normal speech the more you accentuate the basic irrationality of the whole thing."

Blake has claimed that he has attempted to create a new dialectic between words and music "for which the models have not been recent ones". "If I'm honest, I'm thinking primarily of Wagner. I'm as ready as the next man to be bowled over by the big moments in Wagner; but I can't always take the relationship Wagner established between words and music. To begin with, the text is often so banal that German-speakers

are either embarrassed or laugh. Then I don't much care for the role of the orchestra as commentator; the way we're constantly being told by the orchestra who's about to come in, what the character is really thinking, who's behind the nearest bush. It seems to me it's the composer's job to define much more closely what is said by the text, which itself must be made very, very clear. Obviously there are big problems here. You've got to be pretty arrogant to take a piece of, say, Shakespeare or T. S. Eliot and set it to music. OK, I'm arrogant; but it's a task which I think has got to be faced."

Blake admits that he and his librettist are "political animals", but he sidesteps the question of their wanting to use opera in any sense, didactically. The colour, the range, the virility of the drama is what interests them; and the need to communicate something of the power of Toussaint, the black Napoleon, to contemporary audiences. Refreshingly, Blake does not see himself as writing operas for posterity only.

One interesting by-product of work on Toussaint, which includes some carefully assimilated touches of Haitian vaudou music, has been Blake's and Ward's own deepening affection for the Haitian people. "Tony and I were there in 1973. They may be poor, but you sense there still what it is to be free. Tony said to one Haitian 'You have your independence, but what's it worth when you've got a standard of living which is lower than Jamaica's?' I think it was the fairest moment of our trip. Freedom is what matters, and though we've left a question mark hanging over the end of the opera about the longer-term implications of revolution, what comes across politically, perhaps, is that it's better to be free even if you're poor."

Richard Osborne

Western heroes taken for a ride

Dah Dah Dum
Round House
Downstairs

Irving Wardle

As the Salakia Balloon Band specializes in open-air performance with a preference for medieval fairs, it may be wrong to judge it on the strength of a studio theatre show played amid a sprinkling of cardboard cacti for an audience of eight. But I should like to know how

it squares its stated opposition to stereo units with the merciless surge of western music that pours out this short piece, not to mention the title number which unscrambles itself into Rossini's best known gallop. Even without that, one would have grasped the point that the show is taking two Western heroes for a ride. In Sweeney as a down-at-heel Lone Ranger recruits Stephen Steen's dejected Tonto for a rudimentary plot including a desert shoot-out and the disclosure of the Ranger's sly climb to fame. But neither the looming arrivals

of Steve Lewis in a big black hat nor the references to a crowd of 5,000 Indians and the Ranger's horse doing somersaults in mid-air do much to move the story along. Where it does pick up is in its variations of the master and servant routine, with Tonto, the solitary member of the Bluebell tribe, outclassing his big-mouthed partner on the talking drum and covering vast distances in the Indian equivalent of seven league boots. On these terms, the production offers some mild fun and neatly prepared pantomime.

Bing Crosby
Palladium

Ned Chaillet

The Old Crooner may be older, and some of the high notes may be missing, but when Bing Crosby gets down to some serious crooning his voice is still rich and mellow and the lower registers still draw to either black and white. As for music in his own unmistakable style. His show at the Palladium is a family one, but the family is mainly his own, with his wife, Katharine, and his son, Harry Crosby III, standing by to join for repartee, vocal accompaniment and musical support. Most

of the material falls far enough back into Mr Crosby's distinguished career to make it unfamiliar for younger members of other families, but Mr Crosby makes it live with his distinctive phrasing and with his unabashed charm. His own contribution to the show is so overpowering, from his unassuming entrance at the very beginning to a long medley of the songs he made famous, that it might be tempting to dismiss his guest artists. But it would be hard to dismiss Rosemary Clooney under any circumstances and just as she can reach back to the great successes of "C'mon a my house", the Joe Buskin Quartet provides fine versions of Mr Buskin's jazz classics and gives

sturdy support to Mr Crosby's medley. Even Ted Rogers's comedy turn is so vastly superior to the usual comedian outpourings, hitting out at everything from British football to the entire Labour Cabinet, that it does not seem a distraction. But all that is really necessary is Mr Crosby. He never stunts in his offering, and makes a special tribute to Britain by bringing the company together for a "Salute to Noel Coward". He gives the traditional jokes about Bob Hope a fresh and funny airing and does not fail to include "White Christmas" in the songs. Mr Crosby delivers as though he were trying to make himself a name.

Panorama
BBC 1

Michael Church

Yet another programme on Rhodesia? Yes — and yet another winner. There are times when television, as a collective entity, really turns up trumps: the moderately conscientious viewer should by now have more than a hint of the intractable difficulties that Dr Owen is now bravely trying to resolve in New York.

In an ideal broadcasting world, in which the significance of the present situation in Southern Africa was appreciated by all, each of the five programmes now running about in my head would be shown again in turn. The last but one edition of This Week (Thames) would be shown first. In that,

Dimbleby minor speaks to the admirable Nyerere, to Mugabe, Sithole and Muzorewa, and teases out with great succinctness and lucidity the main elements of the political scene as well as the true nature of the "chance" which the Owen plan offers the whites. Next I would show Brian Walden's interview with Smith in Sunday's Weekend World (LWT), in which the UDI-merchant sounds well-pretty plausible. Then would come Monday's fascinating Panorama, in which that same gentleman under more belligerent questioning, sounded much less plausible, and implicitly contradicted his previous implications. My fourth programme would be Vanya Kevley's interview with Sister Janice McLaughlin which was so adroitly slipped into the Everyman (BBC 1) slot three days ago, and last we

would see Hugh Burnett's poignant documentary, White Rhodesia (BBC 1) which was shown six weeks ago. And there we would (or would not) have it: the contradictions, the incompatible political demands, the coexistence, in some whites, of xenophobic brutality with something approaching nobility, the intractable intentions of both Smith and some of the black leaders. The very success of these programmes as not only gatherers but also makers of news does, I think, the question of their proper function. It must be exhilarating for Walden and the Dimblebys to know that they are yet again making the front page, and more power to their arm for regularly managing to do so. But their programmes also have an expository function and that, in the heat of the moment, they should never undervalue.

Callas, phantom of the opera



Montserrat Caballé

Tosca
Royal Opera House

John Higgins

The inevitable shade over Monday's revival of Tosca at Covent Garden was that of Maria Callas. Franco Zeffirelli mounted his production for her and Tosca was the last role she sang at the Royal Opera House on July 5, 1965. Perhaps we were hearing a final performance, but until a few days ago suspicion was not a reality. Now there can be no return.

The current run of performances are discreetly dedicated in the programme to her memory and she would have claimed them anyhow. Tosca's arrival in the Church of Sant'Andrea with imperiousness melting into filiation — the eyes casting around her, the Farnese Palace before lighting on the knife which will kill Scarpia on the supper table... these are the moments which still haunt the production and will go on haunting it.

When Callas was on stage only one person was in command. After she left the production, which has never been far from Covent Garden's repertoire, it has been dominated by other singers as well as Tosca. On Monday it was Cavaradossi's turn. José Carreras, making his London debut in the part, was a flashing young revolutionary from the opening, where he irreverently brushed aside the mumbling of the Angelus by the Sacristan (a ripe piece of characterization by Eric Garret), to his final refusal to die when a member of the firing squad utterly jumped the gun. Carreras's tenor is sensuously luscious at the moment. He caressed Tosca's hands with sweet tone and soft flesh in the last act ("O dolci mani") much in the way that Ferruccio Tagliavini once did; and the new heroism in the voice made that subsequent vision of freedom with Tosca a mirage well worth pursuing. Carreras declined to mount the steps in the first act and add a brushstroke or two in his painting, but other Cavaradossi have so preferred to take "Recondita armonia" at stage level. All

in all this was the best Cavaradossi London has heard in a long while. Montserrat Caballé was unlucky to pick such an evening for her first Covent Garden Tosca, particularly after a disappointing Aida at the end of last season. She tried hard, but the voice is still not responding to colouring as once it did and the tone is apt to turn cloudy in the softer phrases. There were moments to savour, notably in "Vissi d'arte", despite some tempi which did not exactly correspond with the conductor's view of the work, and in the last act. Caballé had the measure of Tosca the prima donna; the mixture of piety and girlish delight, which is the other half of the personality, passed her by. The other elements are familiar. Peter Glossop's Scarpia still makes the Chief of Police too much like a country copper in a wig. The minor parts are far more convincingly played and have been imminently directed by Richard Gregson. Robin Stapleton's Puccini has always been excellent and Monday's revival provided no exception to that orchestral role.

LPO/Tennstedt
Festival Hall

Joan Chissell

Though Klaus Tennstedt made his London debut a year ago, his concert on Monday was his first with the LPO, an orchestra which, under a recently concluded five-year agreement, he is to conduct regularly for several weeks of every year. Since leaving his native East Germany in 1971 he has won particular renown in the United States. His main offering on Monday was Mahler's first symphony. It could not have been anyone long to realize how completely

he was inside this composer's skin, sharing his hypersensitive, even neurotically highly strung, sensibility. Those Mr Tennstedt communicated to his players with his whole body — no baller dancer could have been more lithely expressive — and always with a supple feeling for melodic flow. He conducted from memory, but not a note in the score went uncovered for or uncoloured. In fact he brought home keenly just how much of the tale is told through the music alone, despite the fact that he did not ask the horn section to stand up and blaze out their final triumph. The LPO, at their most alert, rarely failed him in finding the exact shade for

every innuendo. The intimate song theme in the finale was beautifully phrased. And they were always ready for his swift surges of excitement. For a high-powered virtuoso like Horacio Gutierrez, Schumann's Piano Concerto was a curious choice. He did his best to respect the music's mellowness, but seemed most at home in the finale's happy flow of quavers. Changes of mood (and certain details of vibrato) were perhaps too emphatic for true unity in the first movement. The Intermezzo taken a little fast, also included a few questionable details of rubato. But the middle section with the orchestra calling the tune was lovely.

Henry VIII musical for
London

Kings and Clowns, an original musical set in the time of King Henry VIII, will open in London early next year, with Frank Finlay as Henry. This is the

first of Hillard Elkins's programme of new shows for the West End in 1978. The score is by Leslie Bricusse, with book by Tom Rimer and Leslie Bricusse. It will be directed by Mel Shapiro with choreography by Gillian

Lynne, sets and costumes by John Napier and lighting by Richard Pittrow. Before its London premiere Kings and Clowns will be seen at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre for three and half weeks from January 19.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

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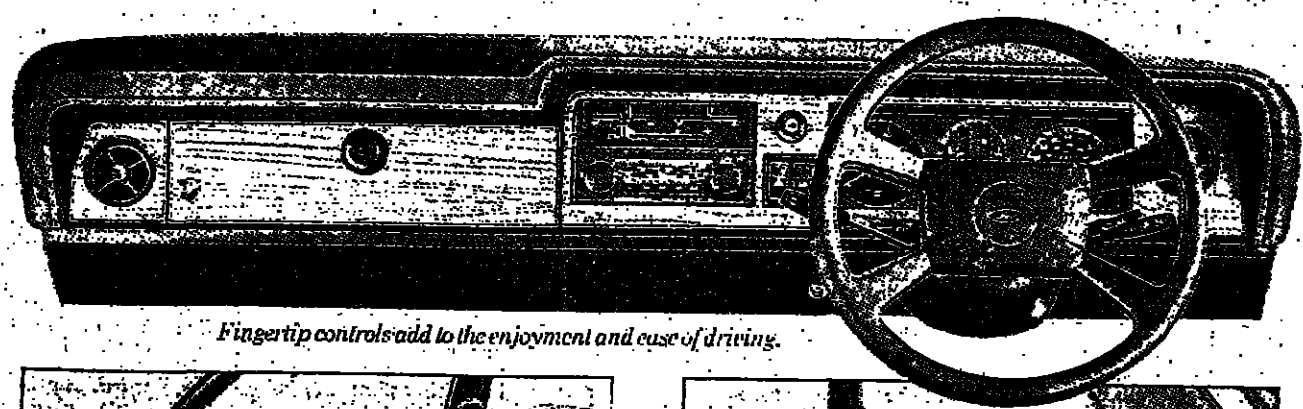
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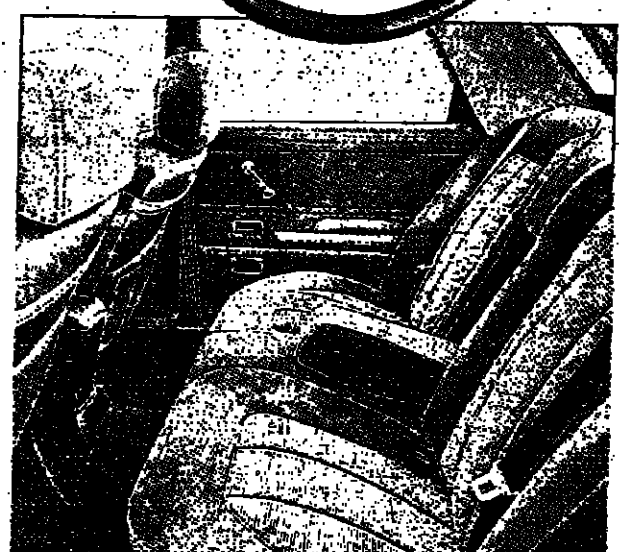
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FORD CORTINA GHIA



William Rees-Mogg analyses the equation of British poverty

One Dutch man hour = two British man hours

The British disease is low manpower productivity; too many man hours per unit of output. It is an underlying cause of all the other weaknesses in our economy. It is the inevitable consequence of one of our most fundamental facts: almost throughout British industry, managers have lost the most essential power of management. They cannot decide how many people they will employ to carry out a particular job. The ordinary housewife can decide whether to employ one Boy Scout or two to clean her car; Sir Charles Villiers cannot decide whether to employ 50 men or 200 to make a bar of steel. He knows that the British steel industry is overmanned, and to a gross degree. He can do little about it. Most of the rest of British management—including the management of Fleet Street—is in the same position. This article is not concerned primarily with Fleet Street, but we are as an industry a striking example of the low productivity caused by restrictive labour practices.

The trade unions do not exercise industrial discipline themselves, but they are strong enough to prevent managers doing so. This has created a deadlock in British industry in which nobody has the power to change how labour should be used. Because the unions will not give them, and will not normally agree to management giving them, labour is wasted. Each man produces less than he might; each man is more than he ought to be. The real wages of every worker in British industry are artificially reduced, because of agreements to waste manpower. Yet the job so protected can never be safe, because the work they represent is wasted; shadow employment of this kind is never as secure or as rewarding as profitable employment in profitable industry. Every one suffers, but the first to suffer is the worker himself.

Productivity in British manufacturing industry, in mining, in rail transport and in major areas of sea service, is in general extremely low. It is difficult to establish an average. Thirteen years ago it was estimated that British manufacturing productivity was only half—and in many instances less than half—the North American level. The last 13 years, however, Germany, France and Japan have advanced, but Britain has fallen even further behind. Extreme instances can be given in which British productivity is only one fifth of the German level or only one tenth of the Japanese level in particular industrial operations. Even in our most efficient industries, such as chemicals or electronics, we do not match the highest world standards of labour use.

In circumstances where the freedom to use labour is equal, British management seems to be only marginally less efficient than North American management. North American firms operating in Britain do not achieve levels of productivity equal to those that they expect in North America or Germany, though their levels of productivity are usually higher than those of the average of their locally owned British competitors. In the United States, the productivity in British owned companies seems to be as high as in locally owned American companies. The fairest comparison of management is between the productivity of British and American international companies.

outside their home markets. There is no evidence of any significant difference. British management does not waste labour when it is free not to do so; it does waste labour in Britain because it is not allowed to manage as efficiently as it would wish to do.

The contrast between the efficient use of non-labour resources and the inefficient use of labour is notable in British Airways. As Mr Michael Beckett showed in a recent article (19.9.1977) in the *Daily Telegraph*, output per man in British Airways—that is in the handling of freight and passenger traffic—is only 36 per cent of that in Pan Am, 47 per cent of Japan Airways, 60 per cent of KLM and 76 per cent of Air France. But British Airways output per aircraft is very high by international standards. That supports the view that British management is efficient in the use of resources which management is free to manage.

The professional competence of management can therefore only account for a small part in the differences of productivity that are observed. Nor can the difference be accounted for by the quality of labour. Where there are few constraints on maximizing productivity, as in agriculture with its small work force per farm, or in some small scale plants, British productivity per man is high or very high by international standards. Large plants, with strong union influences, show the most disastrously low levels of productivity, not only because of overmanning, but because output is frequently interrupted.

The problem that confronts the manager in industry can be stated quite simply: he has existing machinery which has a manning level of X in Germany or the United States, but his work force may be accustomed to a manning level of anything from 2X to 5X. If the British manning level is 2X, then the product will probably be internationally competitive, because British wages are approximately half German or American wages at the present rate of exchange. If the manning levels are 5X then the product will not be internationally competitive and the plant will probably be running at a substantial loss. The manager has the choice between closing the factory or trying to raise productivity to or above the minimum competitive level.

This almost invariably meets with resistance inside the plant. The union executive will often be sympathetic to the management's desire to raise productivity and save the factory. In some cases, the unions, and there will usually be more than one union involved, will put sufficient pressure on the men to secure a significant degree of demanning. The British manning may then be reduced from say 3.5 times to 2.5 times the North American standard. At their most reasonable, the unions usually are responsible in intention—the trade unions still see themselves as the advocates for their members, even when the members are damaging or destroying their own livelihoods. If overmanning is industrial suicide—and it is—the unions regret the members' right to commit it.

In general, however, the unions will not put sufficient pressure on their men, except when closure is imminent, to

The Increase in Productivity 1955-74 (Gross value added per man hour in manufacturing)			
	Level 1974 UK=100	Rise 1955-74 per cent	Rate of increase UK=100
Netherlands	196	228	248
Belgium	179	210	228
France	167	166	180
Germany	162	171	186
Italy	103	185	201
United Kingdom	100	92	100

Based on Chart 2 of A. T. Jones
"Output, Employment and Labour Productivity in Europe since 1955"
National Institute Economic Review, August, 1976

We, the representatives of the Trades Union Congress, the Federation of British Industries, the British Employers' Confederation, the National Association of British Manufacturers and the Association of British Chambers of Commerce accept that major objectives of national policy must be—

• to ensure that British industry is dynamic and that its prices are competitive;

• to raise productivity and efficiency so that real national output can increase, and to keep increases in wages, salaries and

other forms of income in line with this increase.

• to keep the general level of prices stable.

We therefore undertake, on behalf of our members, to encourage and lead a sustained attack on the obstacles to efficiency, whether on the part of management or of workers, and to strive for the adoption of more rigorous standards of performance at all levels.

The Joint Statement of Intent on Productivity, Prices and Income
Lancaster House,
December 16, 1964.

achieve more than modest gains in productivity. They will, however, certainly prevent the employer closing the competitive gap by making redundant the men who are not needed and ordering the remaining men to work the equipment to the North American or German standard of productivity. If the manager tries to do this, then he will be resisted by strike action and the strike action will almost certainly be supported by all the unions concerned. All the employer can do is to better away at union resistance, chip by chip, until he has raised productivity from a deplorable to a merely defective level. This is at present the main concern of a high proportion of the best of British managers. It is their daily work. In the meantime our competitors continue to make rapid progress from a higher level of productivity. And they have more executive time to devote to the other needs of their businesses.

It was at one time argued that the cause of this low productivity was that workers resented private capitalism and that public ownership would allow productivity to rise. The opposite has turned out to be the case. In general, productivity in publicly owned industries is below that of private industries. The steel industry, for example, even with the added socialist incentive of the unions' loyalty, has not been able to reach the notably low productivity by international standards; the gap was wide at the point of nationalization and is now wider. The criterion of profitability asserts a

continual pressure for higher productivity in private industry. Even that pressure is not sufficient to bring British productivity in private industry up to international standards, but where the pressure of profitability is weak, the levels of productivity fall even further below the competitive level.

A number of consequences flow from this. As British productivity is below the international competitive level, the standard of living has fallen below the level of other advanced industrial countries. We create less real wealth per person and we are therefore only able to consume less real wealth per person. British investment is artificially depressed. This occurs for two reasons. The first is that investment in new equipment must be less profitable in a country where that new equipment will not be operated to maximum efficiency or to the North American standard of productivity; investment naturally flows towards efficient producers, and avoids restrictions on production. The second is that manufacturers already have equipment which is overmanned and are therefore not interested in introducing new equipment which—if it saves them anything—will save them less labour than could be saved merely by obtaining improved manning agreements. If you have to employ 27 men on a machine that can be worked by eight, you look with indifference at a new machine that can be worked by only six men.

Low productivity and the low investment that is consequent upon it

naturally lead to low employment and to lack of international competitiveness. Because British industry is not competitive in productivity, the long-term trend of the currency is to fall; once the benefits of North Sea have been discounted, that long-term trend will inevitably reassert itself.

As productivity increases so slowly, even modest wage increases outstrip the effect by a rise in unemployment. In the 1970s wage increases have not always been moderate and this has put still greater pressure on government to inflate. When real wealth is not being created, the temptation to create more money wealth is at its greatest.

Another consequence is that capital and talent move from areas where there are restrictions on productivity to areas where the restrictions are weak or non-existent. This is the process which has been called "the de-industrialization of Britain" and it will not be reversed by an arbitrary and wasteful forced investment at low or negative returns. To some extent the growth of invisible trade has offset the losses on visible trade. Britain has earned large sums from the service industries where we are competitive, and those partly offset the failure to earn in areas where we are not. This growth of non-productive bureaucracy imposes an equally non-productive counter bureaucracy on industry; people who are paid to answer letters from civil servants are a dead overhead.

The purpose of restrictive practices and overmanning is to protect jobs. It is obvious that overmanning has in fact destroyed very large numbers of jobs. At the end of the war Britain was still the most important shipbuilding country in the world, producing 38 per cent of the tonnage launched. Our shipbuilding industry is now totally unimportant in world terms, producing less than 1 per cent of the tonnage launched, and if it disappeared altogether no one outside Britain would suffer serious inconvenience. The present weakened state of the British shipbuilding industry is the result of low productivity. If productivity had been higher, more men would be employed in the industry.

The same thing is apparent in the automobile industry. Because of low productivity and irregular work the British car industry has lost half its home market; in 1965 95 per cent of cars sold in Britain were British made, in 1977, 54 per cent. The cars that are not sold because of past failures of productivity represent jobs that do not exist. In the end low productivity can actually destroy an industry and leave virtually no jobs at all. This happened historically in Britain when the textile industry of the south-west failed to match the productivity of the textile industry of the north. One can still see the empty textile factories of Shepton Mallet, a monument to past resistance to change. Low productivity means low profitability means low investment means high

unemployment. Overmanning keeps me in jobs now, but closes the factory late. It is difficult to measure precisely the cost of overmanning to the British economy. That must depend on the period in which it is assumed that overmanning would have been corrected and on the capital investment that would have been substituted by higher productivity.

However, the unions have made a real time of the preparation of the Labour Government's National Plan of 1965, produced when Lord George Brown was the Department of Economic Affairs, a gross national product would probably now about 50 per cent higher than it is. Prices would be substantially lower, the pound would probably stand between \$2.50 and \$3.00. On ideal assumptions we would all be at least twice well off—and would enjoy better social services—if British manning levels had been reduced to the North American standard. This wealth, everybody has lost, and those who have least wealth could least afford to lose it. Overmanning in the coal industry is the cold grave of the old age pensioner, as well as low pay for the miner. It is a way in which a man hurts himself and his neighbour.

During the 1950s and 1960s the British weakness in productivity was partly hidden by the continuing world boom. Other countries had much better growth rates than our economy did continue to grow. Other countries expanded their exports, but our exports continued to sell.

Productivity in steel 1976-77

	1976	1977
US	116,300	471
Japan	107,400	316
W Germany	42,400	264
Italy	23,200	147
UK	22,500	62

Different definitions of output and manpower make these figures unreliable for precise comparison.

have experienced in the 70s, hard times are hardest for the least competitive. I have had a sharp fall in the standard living of many of our people, a decline in our services, and on growth we are in a recession next year, then the British economy will face the pressure of more efficient competitors at a time when every nation is struggling to reassert its share of world trade. In times of adversity, low productivity is extremely damaging—it has cost all of us the difference between the British standard living and the German or French. It is a shame, it is very dangerous. It is a response to a recession, should it be a deliberate overmanning then, that day will certainly prove a disaster. On the other hand if we started to raise productivity to international levels, could have a unique period of growth prosperity. All we have to do to do our standard of living is to become efficient, the Dutch.

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Bernard Levin

The North Sea Gas Board rides again

Pausing only to smear the toe of my boot with deadly arrow poison, I swing back my leg, and...

I swore, not least to the nice man they hired last time to hear the brunt, that I would never bully the North Thames Gas Board in public again. But what they have just done (and they haven't finished doing it yet, either) to poor Mrs Paul of Kensington is so frightful, and so appallingly reminiscent of the very worst examples of their wickedness recounted to me by my readers last time, that I think a salutary boot in the rump is now called for. Pausing, therefore, only to smear the toe of the boot with the deadly arrow-poison of the South American Indians, I swing back my leg, and...

On June 2, Mrs Paul rang the Gas Board's branch in High Street, Kensington, to announce that the water heater for her bath was out of order. A mere 11 days later, two men called and took the offending device to pieces; they told her that it needed some new parts, and that these would take a week to deliver.

Har har har. A further 12 days went by ("A Gas Board week is a long time in politics," Harold Wilson) and Mrs Paul found the three parts on her doorstep, with a note that tells us more about the Gas Board's inefficiency than any number of examples of their

inefficiency could tell: "You will be informed", it ran, "when it is convenient for us to fit these parts."

Well, I could have told her, if she had had the sense to ask me, that she would not be informed about that or anything else, nor was she. So eventually she rang High Street Kensington again to make an appointment to have the founding parts fitted. A very bad slip-up then occurred, for which I imagine somebody will certainly be sacked as soon as this column appears: the appointment was kept. The fitter put the heater together again, incorporating the new parts as he did so, and Mrs Paul had a bath in her own bathroom for the first time in a month or so.

You picture the scene; there is a nice Mrs P. thinking mollified thoughts about the Gas Board, and doubtless concluding that the board Mr Levin is a terrible hard man to please. Har har har; for it seems that at that point the newly repaired water heater began to leak water in considerable quantities. So the patient soul went round to the Gas Board in the High Street (she had the advantage of living just round the corner, and

no doubt steps are even now being taken to avoid the danger of such personal visits in future, possibly by decreeing that all NT Gas Board customers shall have their accounts and service problems dealt with by a brand not less than 20 miles from their homes), where she was met with sympathy ("Remember—if you smile at them they may go away and leave you alone"—Chairman, North Thames Gas Board); but the sympathetic ones could make no promise of another fixed appointment.

Mrs Paul then had to go away on business for four days; she returned to find the bathroom floor swamped in water from a renewed leakage. (At this point I may as well jump ahead to the last paragraph of the story, which reads: "Only my sense of the ridiculous has saved me from suicide". I think she probably means murder.)

Round she went again to the High Street—we have now, incidentally, reached August 27, the heater having first failed on June 2—where she was met with more sympathy ("But don't overdo it"—Chairman, NT Gas Board); 101 that very afternoon a man came round—and turned off the water. (That

foiled you, eh? Thought I was going to say he came round and fixed it, didn't you? Har har har.) His final message was to the effect that the heater needed a new part. ("So I've noticed"—Mrs Paul.)

Nothing further then happened ("And what's more, they may simply die of natural causes if you hang on"—Chairman, NT Gas Board), so on August 22, Mrs Paul went round again to Fortress Gas. More sympathy, and even a little bit of explanation. "Head office has run out of spares". Re-nerved silence, so on August 30 back she went to the counter, where she was told that the parts would be available "in a few days". She told them that she would be away from

September 1 to September 8 (she says "on holiday", but I think it more likely that she was taking the week off to go somewhere where she could wash herself all over), so would they please make a note that there was no point in their sending anybody during that time.

Oh, you rotten lot, you've guessed, haven't you? Sure as fate, there was a card on the mat when she got back, saying that had called on September 2 and had been absent. The card, incidentally, bore the cheery message that I think is worth reprinting in full:

It's easy to forget about servicing until something goes wrong—or the cold weather arrives and our service departments are at their busiest. Take out a regular service contract—we have schemes for all approved appliances including central heating—and have servicing carried out when it's convenient for you and for us. Let us do the worrying—it's what we're here for. ("So that's what we're here for"—Chairman, NT Gas Board.)

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Why there was a large gap on the Liberals' platform

Even as David Steel was appealing for the hearts and minds of the Liberal faithful gathered for their assembly in Brighton, Cyril Smith was bidding to increase the sales of his autobiography at a bookshop half a mile away from the conference hall.

Mr Smith chose W. H. Smith's main store in the Churchill shopping centre yesterday to autograph copies of his book *Big Cyril*. By contriving to be almost in two places at once, I was able to watch the boyish Mr Steel through the window of an adjacent television rental shop as he opened his peroration amid the Regency splendour of the Pavilion.

Meanwhile, over my shoulder loomed the far-from-boyish Mr Smith, who apologized to local shoppers in the concrete jungle that is Brighton's consumer glory, for being almost 20 minutes late for his signing session. As it was reporters outnumbered buyers in the shop by about five to one.

Was Mr Smith being rude, I asked him, by being absent from the conference platform

where (for reasons of quantity rather than quality) his 22 colleagues would surely mark his truancy? "Not at all," he said. "I always believe in spending my time usefully." No snub was intended, he assured me. Mr Smith's loyalty, he reminded me, was to the party and not to an individual. I was, therefore, a little surprised when he said that he intended to resign at the next election, stand independently, and still win.

Anyway, he explained, he would not have wanted to cheer certain parts of Mr Steel's speech, so he was better off keeping the date to autograph books that he had made weeks ago. I did not dare to tell him that Mr Steel had made his date to speak months ago.

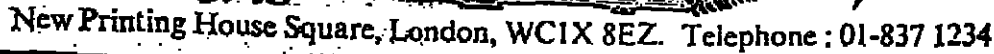
As I returned to the conference hall, an elderly lady, clasping a copy of *The Morecombe and Wise Special* (their new book), came from the BBC end of her way. "I want them both to write a message in it," she said. Big Cyril, I thought, but surely not a double act yet?

The man from Niagara

Away from the main stream of Liberal politics and, indeed, the endless series of fringe meetings, it was a delight to meet Joe Green, Canada's Liberal senator for Niagara who is Mr Trudeau's representative and observer at the assembly. He had come here from the Liberal International in Corsica.

Senator Green knows Britain well, having spent five years in Fighter Command during the war. "I enjoy it over here; our politics in Canada is a cross game. There should not be too much philosophy in Liberalism," he told me.

Perhaps it is common knowledge in diplomatic circles, but I had not heard it so forcefully expressed before that Mr Trudeau has been negotiating formally for a Canadian connexion with the Common Market. Senator Green explained that such a connexion would, in the view of Canadian Liberalism, form a bridge between the United States and the EEC much as Canada once provided the bridge between America and Britain.



College names
From Mr Henry G. Button
 Sir, John Young (September 19)
 referred to Sir Isaac Wolfson as
 "the first man since Jesus Christ
 to have colleges named after him
 at both Oxford and Cambridge".
 He appears to have overlooked St
 Peter's, perhaps because St Peter's
 College at Cambridge is usually
 known as Peterhouse.
 Yours faithfully,
HENRY G. BUTTON,
 7 Ambrose Court,
 George Road,
 Cambridge.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

فكرنا من الاله

John Foord
CHARTERED
SURVEYORS

CBI unhappy with code of conduct for British firms in South Africa



Mr John Whitehorn: no total endorsement of code.

Employers' leaders made a statement yesterday that they were in 1977 a considerable way from agreement with the Government on a code of conduct for British firms in South Africa. The statement, which was made by John Whitehorn, deputy general of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), said that the code of conduct for British firms in South Africa was a "serious matter" and that the CBI was "not in a position to endorse it".

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Pit injury risk 7-times that of manufacturing

Coal miners' claims to have the most hazardous job in the country are vividly reinforced by the government Health and Safety at Work statistics for 1975, published today.

Each year the miner has a worse than one-in-five chance of being injured. With 20,940 accidents reported for every 100,000 at work in coal-mining, the risk is about seven times as high as that for manufacturing.

Rustenbug passes its final dividend

By Desmond Quinlan
Rustenbug Platinum Holdings, the world's largest platinum producer, has passed its final dividend because of the "unpromising outlook" for platinum group metal prices.

As a result the total dividend for 1976 was 10 cents a share compared with 10 cents a share last year. The pre-tax profits for the year ended 31.12.76 were 10.5m rand or 24 per cent, or 33.6m rand (about £22m).

Operating profit for the year declined from 53.2m rand to 42m rand. Rustenbug has adopted a new accounting method with the result that the pre-tax profits for last year were a mere 4.7m rand as against 33.6m rand profit under the historical basis. Operating profits were reduced from 42m rand under the old basis to 23.1m rand, while the pre-tax profits were reduced from 42m rand to 23.1m rand.

UK in world's top ten oil producers by 1980

By Roger Viole
Britain will be among the world's top 10 oil producers by 1980 and is inevitably beginning to think as a major oil producer, according to a report by the Secretary of State for Energy.

Writing in *Coal and Energy Quarterly* about his recent visit to the EEC Council of Energy Ministers, he says Britain's unique energy strength will be the subject of discussions within the council.

Government advance factories may be sold to private sector

By Peter Hill
Factories built by the Government as part of regional development policy to provide much-needed jobs in development areas may be sold to the private sector.

Top officials at the Department of Industry are considering means of disposing of some of the factories built and owned by the English Industrial Estates Corporation and the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies.

Each year the Government spends about £22m on new factory building programmes and the overall United Kingdom expenditure on advance factories is about £30m a year. The Government is one of the largest industrial landlords in the country and its property portfolio is worth an estimated £342m at replacement values.

Mr Grenside to be senior partner of Peat, Marwick

By Our Financial Staff
Mr John Grenside is to be Sir Ronald Leach's successor as senior partner of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co, one of the world's largest accounting firms.

Mr Grenside is 56 and has been with Peat, Marwick since 1948 and a partner since 1960. He said yesterday that he did not expect any major changes in the firm other than those now taking place in the profession in general in the moves towards greater flexibility and professionalism.

Government advance factories may be sold to private sector

Established under the Local Employment Act 1960, the Government owns a large number of properties, some of which are more than 40 years old. But as a result of successive government policies to promote regional development Whitehall has become a major industrial property landlord.

Officials are conscious that it has become a landlord almost by accident and stress that they are in the business of promoting employment and stimulating investment in the regions, rather than property investment.

A number of possibilities are under discussion but a strong option is understood to be that, while the Department of Industry will continue to subsidize the activities of companies which establish themselves in advance factories, the buildings would be sold to private institutions such as pension funds, which would then lease back properties to their occupiers.

European steel makers are facing investment cuts and plant closures

By Our Industrial Correspondent
Steel falls in investment by the European steel industry, and greater rationalization in the next few years to improve competitiveness, were forecast yesterday in the latest survey of capital spending by members of the European Coal and Steel Community.

Steel companies in Europe last year invested 3,150m units of account (£2,047.5m) despite growing financial problems, according to a survey conducted in the previous year of about £2,164.5m.

The survey noted, however, that while the overall total remained large, in view of the financial requirements it represented, recent rises in capital goods prices had reduced the effective purchasing power of funds available for steel industry investment.

Jay warning to US on rethinking of tax treaty

From Frank Vogel
Washington, Sept 27
Mr Peter Jay, the British Ambassador, has warned the United States Senate that Britain might demand full renegotiation of the new United States treaty if the Senate tries to delete a key clause dealing with corporate tax.

The treaty was ratified by Parliament in January, but Congress has still to approve it. Final discussions are to take place in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The Ambassador's warning is contained in a letter to Senator John Sparkman, its chairman.

The committee is under intense pressure from numerous state governors, notably Governor Jerry Brown of California, to delete a clause that prevents states from imposing certain local taxes on the subsidiaries of British companies.

Whitehall studies aids to exporters

Officials of the Department of Trade are considering schemes to improve Britain's export performance. The discussions are still at a fairly preliminary stage, but a variety of ideas are being considered aimed at improvement in the medium and longer term.

As part of the Government's industrial strategy much importance is being attached to the successful regeneration of the manufacturing industry. The success of this strategy will depend on the success of the export industry.

The Department of Industry, which musters a powerful armory of incentives for companies involved in investment projects, is conscious that its ability to provide funds to assist in the marketing of the goods produced by industry is extremely limited.

Japan's big trade surplus criticized

Continued from page 1
There was a need for a structural change in the strong currency away from export dependence, he stressed that it was no longer acceptable for Japan to keep cutting back on domestic demand of the need to deal with the very large surplus of oil-producing countries.

Low the markets moved

The Times index: 215.67+1.14
The FT index: 522.0+0.7

THE POUND
Bank buys 1.65
Bank sells 1.60

Rowntree Mac 12p to 412p
Royal 10p to 44p

Australia 5 1.65
Austria Sch 36.50

Belgium Fr 66.75
Canada \$ 1.91

Denmark Kr 11.10
Finland Mk 7.20

France Fr 8.84
Germany Dr 4.32

Greece Dr 64.75
Hong Kong \$ 8.40

Italy L 158.80
Japan Y 496.00

Netherlands Gld 4.48
Norway Kr 9.90

Portugal Esc 76.00
S Africa Rd 1.82

Spain Ptas 165.75
Sweden Kr 4.38

Switzerland Fr 4.38
US \$ 1.79

Yugoslavia Dnr 36.75
YUS 34.50

Notes for small denomination bank notes as at 22.09.77 by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Reports, pages 20 and 21

her pages
appointments
vacancies

LONGTON

TRANSPORT (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

Profit exceeds £1 million for first time

Extracts from the Statement of Mr. Edward G. Dale, Chairman:

Profit before taxation amounted to £1,327,052—exceeding £1m for the first time. In view of the difficulties encountered during the year I consider this to be an excellent result.

Demand for our storage, distribution and shipping and forwarding services was buoyant and the substantial contracts obtained towards the end of last year have enabled the division to increase its profits substantially.

Steel stockholding and processing showed a considerable improvement both in terms of turnover and profit. In the engineering supplies section sales and profits continued to grow.

Your company's continued success depends to a great extent on the national economic climate and it is in the interests of shareholders and employees alike that the rate of inflation is reduced as soon as possible.

Year ended 31st March	1977	1976	1975
Sales	£2,000	£1,873	£1,705
Profit before taxation	1,327	761	732
Profit after taxation	1,079	402	377
Earnings per ordinary share	17.1p	6.3p	5.9p
Ordinary dividend per share	*3.44p	*3.10p	*2.84p

*Maximum permitted

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Head Office, 473 King Street, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 1EU.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Waiting for an autumn package

Chancellor's speech to the IMF yesterday added precious little to what has already been said on the subject of a stimulative package for the British economy. Indeed, Healey seemed to be giving little away at all on future government policy. True, he spoke of the need for surplus countries and Britain would be figuring increasingly prominently in this list—to boost the world economy by putting greater emphasis on their imports rather than on exports. But it was equally clear that Britain's contribution to this would have been seen in the context of the country's need to accumulate the reserves necessary to repay our substantial—some \$20,000m—overseas debts.

Meanwhile, it does seem clear that there is to be a stimulative package of sorts. November barring any major setback on labour/pay front over the next few weeks. It is also clear that the PSBR ceiling is a very definite limit on the size of the package and that a package that is merely trying to underwrite a situation should in itself present any great fears in the full year money supply targets. That said, moves this autumn to push supply growth firmly towards the end of its annual target range by the 1 of the year would leave the money supply growing at an annualized rate of 15 per cent over the second-half of the year. It would be fairly significant in real terms. Whether or not this would perturb the market would probably depend on the kind of hints the Chancellor dropped about his plans for the spring, but it would almost certainly convince markets that there was more downside potential for short-term interest rates.

House builders running out of land?

Hope springs eternal among housebuilders. Even a 24 per cent fall in pre-tax profits on Barratt Developments has failed to offset the optimism engendered by the company's statements about a substantial pickup in activity earlier in the year. Barratt's overall margins fell to 7.5 per cent from 11.9 per cent and 25.7 per cent in 73 and finally though the balance sheet shows a loss of £7.4m, £1.2m is due to property sales of almost 400 houses and its left over following the James acquisition.

Barratt's overall margins fell to 7.5 per cent from 11.9 per cent and 25.7 per cent in 73 and finally though the balance sheet shows a loss of £7.4m, £1.2m is due to property sales of almost 400 houses and its left over following the James acquisition. Housebuilders now need an increase in prices. Everything suggests this will happen soon: certainly a falling mortgage rate and growing economic confidence are the most substantial upward pointers for the time, though wages will be the determining factor. Barratt is aiming for a 15 per cent increase in prices this year on its existing average house price of £10,500. Experience of how overruns can soar suggest that the company would like 15 per cent to be a minimum.

Two sides to the nickel argument

The present difficulties in the nickel industry have been suspected for some time. But now is the situation becoming clear. Major producers are having to admit to serious problems. The four largest (Inco, Falconbridge and Western Mining) have little alternative since they have announced production cutbacks.

Producers, including those who mine nickel mainly as a by-product, seem to be suggesting that the worst is over and that it will not be long before production and demand are in equilibrium, even if that does mean the historically very heavy overhang of more than a year's stocks.

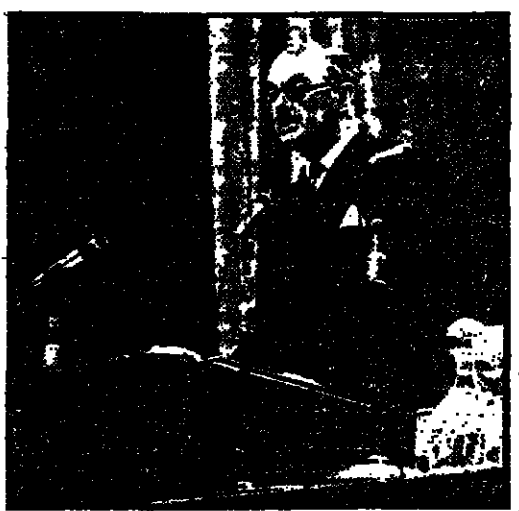
However, outside observers, notably the Japanese who have a knack of getting these things right, say that the industry will remain in the doldrums for several years and that the production cutbacks, while real enough, have not been sufficient.

This point seems to have been underlined by Inco, which is not going to adopt its 1977-80 plan when it bailed out the whole industry.

But now that interest charges have fallen, a major factor for Barratt's given its £19m bank borrowings, and material price increases seem to be slowing up, there is some hope that margins will recover.

Longer-term, however, the problems are by no means over for builders. Development Land Tax and the Community Land Act have effectively led to the complete stagnation of the land market. Barratt has managed to preserve a land bank of 25,500 plots and the company is currently getting by on purchases from other building firms. But in a couple of years, a continued land market stagnation will begin to threaten the housebuilding market with the same fate.

How this will be resolved by the industry—or a future Government—remains to be seen. But there is at least one more cycle left, and Barratt shares, yielding 10 per cent at 112p, promise to be at the head of the field once it is realised that the balance sheet is not as bad as many expected.



Capital spending figures are showing only the most tentative revival, and the banks are still saying they see little sign of an upturn in demand for investment finance. Significantly, however, in view of the weight of evidence to the Wilson Committee that small companies face difficulties raising permanent finance, venture capital operations are reporting splendid business.

Yesterday Gresham Investment Trust announced at its annual meeting that "inquiries for our business of providing permanent and long-term capital for the private company is higher than for some time past." Gresham's experience is fully borne out by ICFP which, with 2,500 customers is by far the biggest venture capital provider. In the first 20 weeks of this financial year ICFP, part of Finance for Industry which is chaired by Lord Seebohm (above), has received applications from over 400 companies for a total in excess of £60m, roughly double the level of this time last year. Acceptances are also running at double last year's level, the upturn being uniformly seen across the 18-strong branch network.

Charterhouse, too, is seeing buoyant demand, although it points out that the approaches are chiefly coming from the service and distribution sectors. It is still not seeing much interest in finance for new factories or plants.

It is small comfort that nickel has been partly protected by the severe world recession, since speciality steels have held up relatively well but not well enough with extra nickel production coming on stream. The industry's struggle has been made all the more intense by Inco's new attitude forced on it partly because its share of non-communist production has dropped from around two thirds a few years ago to below 40 per cent now. Vicious price cutting has ensued, openly since Inco ceased to post its prices in July and announced at the same time that it had rescinded last year's increase from \$2.20 a pound to \$2.41.

With prices down now to \$1.80 a pound it is all very well for the industry to argue that some of the new mines shortly due to come on stream will need \$3.20 a pound to be profitable. The market as ever will dictate whether that is feasible, and economic indicators do not point to a resurgence of the capital goods industry and thus demand for nickel.

How union restraint is helping Japan

The sharp decline in labour unrest was due to the increasingly conciliatory attitudes of labour and management in the private sector towards one another, as a result of their common desire to protect jobs and incomes through co-operation.

This statement, a succinct and telling summary of one of the main factors behind Japan's success story, is contained in the latest report on the country's labour problems issued last week by the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations.

Industry's major forum for wage negotiations. In essence, the report shows clearly how Japan's otherwise militant unions in the private sector, faced with a recession over the past three years, have curtailed demands on wage increases to keep their companies—and Japan—afloat and booming during a period of crisis.

A result, Japan has remained competitive, and although many key industries are still threatened with recession, the country is expected to emerge with an overall trade surplus of £3,045m at the end of the fiscal year.

In a significant sidelight to its report on Conditions of the labour economy of Japan, the federation of employers (Nikkeiren) points out that, unlike unions in the public sector, workers in the private sector of domestic and export industries curbed both their demands and strikes as Japan entered a period of recession in 1976.

Statistics on labour disputes show that the working days lost annually declined from a peak of 9.6 million in 1974 to eight million in 1975 and 3.2 million in 1976, the federation says. It is hence the report makes its comment that the decline in labour unrest was due to the increasingly conciliatory attitudes of labour and management in the private sector towards one another.

In a rare statement for business leaders of a big industrialized nation, the Nikkeiren sums up wage negotiations this year as follows: "In contrast to the voluntary and responsible manner in which wage settlements were reached in the private sector, the unions of public corporations repeated their illegal strikes. As a result, they extracted larger wage concessions from their employers than did the private sector unions."

However, their behaviour invited strong public criticism. The report goes on to declare that unions representing Japan's main export industries—iron, steel, electronics and vehicles—reached an instant settlement on wage increases with management this year—without resorting to strikes.

It continues: "Labour and management in the private railway sector conducted negotiations independently of railway unions in the public sector. Thus, for the first time in nine years, private sector railway unions accepted wage offers without the arbitration of the central labour relations commission."

Because of a thriving economy—boosted mainly by hard work and Japan's competitive power in exports—the average monthly wage of workers increased just over nine times during the past 22 years to the present level of £435, the Nikkeiren report claims.

Supporting this report of industrial harmony in Japan, one of the country's most powerful unions in the steel industry indicated this month that wage demands next year will not exceed the rate of inflation—because the industry is in recession. At the same time workers in Japan's car industry have promised to work through their holidays to meet export orders.

Peter Hazelhurst

David Blake on the background to the IMF's Washington talks

How the world's economy has broken adrift



Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England (left), with Mr Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer at the Washington meeting yesterday.

States, the Americans may end up being pulled down by Europe.

The question which the ministers are asking themselves publicly is whether they should accept greater risks on the inflation front in the hope of pushing up output to prevent a major recession appearing by 1979. Privately, though, many people seem to take a gloomier view in which they talk and act as if they felt that they had lost control over their own affairs.

Take the Germans for example. Until recently they have been the most robust supporters of the view that they were doing enough in their economy to deal with their own unemployment and to help reduce the very large imbalances on current account. That confidence is all gone, vanished with the almost monthly downward revisions of their growth estimates for this year.

Just why the German economy has performed so badly nobody there seems to know. The slowdown in Germany has exceeded even the most pessimistic predictions of outside bodies like the OECD. No one expects that the latest package of measures, which is to start winding its way through Parliament, will do much to increase growth, certainly not to a level where the Germans can start to be a "locomotive" pulling the world along.

There will probably be more measures later on, as the latest round turn out to be insufficient, but of these, too, not much is expected. One difficulty which the Germans face is that the measures they announce are often not the measures which actually happen. Income tax cuts go straight into the savings bank, short-circuiting the multiplier which is meant to boost the economy.

Even more remarkable has been the extent to which money voted for public expenditure programmes never gets spent. Indeed, in the German case, an

undershoot on public spending has been one of the most important factors dragging the economy down.

They are not alone in this; all over the world public spending is turning out to be consistently lower than it is supposed to be. This has happened in Britain and the United States as well, and seems to be endemic in the way budgets are drawn up, with spending ministries always asking for more money than that they expect to spend so that they can be on the safe side. That may be safe for them; but it makes management of the economy immeasurably more difficult for forecasters who build in assumptions to their models which are quite wrong.

There is no doubt that in their own interest the Germans could and should have done more to increase their growth rate. But in reality it has always been unrealistic to try to put the whole burden of solving the gap between output and productive potential onto the Germans, the Japanese and the United States.

Not much can be expected in the way of extra growth from the IMF's policy of encouraging countries which have moved into surplus after years of deficit to stimulate their economies. That is an important development for Britain, because it ends the uncertainty about what both the fund and the Government were intending to do.

But Britain is a rarity, because it is suddenly gaining the benefit of North Sea oil. Without that there would be no surplus and the rest of the world does not have this bonus. That is why France, for example, is expected to have a deficit of \$4,000m (£2,300m) this year, to be running a deficit at an annual rate of \$3,500m next year and to be nowhere near the fund criterion for reflation.

The fund's attitude is understandable because it is in the front line of balance of payments problems, being the insti-

tution that countries turn to when other sources of finance run out. It is the balance of payments constraints which lie behind the fund's emphasis of austerity packages for the countries it visits.

Negotiating deals effectively reduce domestic consumption in a string of countries. This will, in all likelihood, be a greater force on the downward side in the next year than any stimuli that Switzerland and the Netherlands, the two small surplus countries, can provide. The other approach, to which we are drifting, is to accept that the global deficit of the industrial world is here to stay, accept also that imbalances within the West are impervious to attempts to remedy them and switch to a strategy of encouraging everyone to expand at a medium pace instead of saying that some like the Germans should go fast and others should slow down.

The big question about that, of course, is whether it can be done without rekindling inflation. For it is inflation which still remains one of the most difficult problems facing the world. We have now had nearly four years of very restrictive demand policies and the inflation rate is still 7 per cent on average, with no real sign of coming down.

The signs are frankly not that encouraging. When the economy did show some signs of pick-up in 1976, the inflation rate started to accelerate quite rapidly. But the truth is that we just do not know. On the old relationship, unemployment of over 15 million in the OECD should have brought inflation down much more than it has, so maybe a reduction of unemployment could be achieved either without pushing the inflation rate up or possibly even bring it down through reducing unit costs as output expands. Whatever we do it is hard to avoid the feeling that the rest of this decade is going to be a tough time for the world's economy.

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Business Diary: Liberal aims? • BA's carry on

The Liberal economics group meets at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, today to hear an address on John Pardo's tax proposals from Ronald Burgess.

Burgess signs the foreword to the *Change to Change* To-day's Economic Revival, which is published today and is the latest effusion from the Economic Study Association.

He appears to be the primus inter pares of the ESA, an economic research body registered with the Charity Commission and incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 1966.

The ESA declares itself to be an "independent" body whose members "come from all walks of life and have political affiliations which cover all three main parliamentary parties". Burgess told Business Diary yesterday that he is "probably a Liberal", although he belongs to no political party, and says he has no sympathy with the views of Pardo, the Liberal spokesman on economic affairs.

He has in the past advised Mr Keith Joseph on unemployment and taxation policy, and is recently published a pamphlet *Social Justice or Unbridled Government* for the right-wing pressure group, Aims for Freedom and Enterprise.

Burgess is a former commodities consultant (Pardo is a member of the London Metal Exchange) and says ESA has an income of between £10,000 and £100,000 a year but—such as an economist's cavalier way with figures—declines to be more specific.

The money comes partly from individuals and partly from bodies such as the Wincote Foundation. There are also contributions from a number of sources who in Burgess's words "You know well enough but who don't want to be known".

This is believed to be a reference to a right-wing industrialists' association and to a number of companies.

Reader Peter Clarke saw our recent note about the London pub exterior that had one sign declaring it to be "An English Heritage Pub" above another "American...ham-burgers". We then reported that the second sign had subsequently come down, but that, not liking the beer, we hadn't been in to see if the hamburger sign had been taken away. The intrepid Clarke now writes to say that he did go in and not only were the hamburgers on sale but also available, were that quaint old English entertainment, the juke box, and that well-known old English pub game, the electronic racing car machine.

Ross Stinton, the deputy chairman of British Airways, was on hand yesterday when the state carrier was presented with its Queen's Award for Export Achievement by the Vice-Lieutenant of Greater London, Admiral Sir Charles Madden.

Stinton said that BA reservations staff had secured 1,500 hotel beds for travellers to London every night this summer and could have done more were the beds available. BA passengers, one might say, may now be able to sleep more soundly in those beds, following Business Diary's information that the airline has set up a special unit to investi-

gate the illegal carrying of dangerous cargo.

Ten or more alleged breaches of the regulations are now being investigated each week. Two of the more recent concern a shipper fined for declaring goods to be "ship's spares" when they were in fact rockets and cartridges, and another consignment, also under a false label, happened to be ammonia.

British Airways would like the government to be tougher in administering the law on dangerous cargoes. Apparently about half the breaches investigated involved potential danger to aircraft or staff, and as freight is often carried on passenger planes—to the public.

Capel-Cure Myers, whose 12-man gits team has been poached by rival stockbrokers, Fielding Newton-Smith, is apparently wasting no time in repairing the breach.

Capel-Cure's chairman, David Grenier, has persuaded 10-year-old gits specialist John McGregor, to return to the City after a year's absence. He will join the firm next month to head a new gits department when the old team goes in December.

directors of Datsun's UK import subsidiary.

The dealers formed a committee early this month which called on Datsun to release cars. The Datsun statement, we understand, will probably praise dealers for their marketing efforts but is unlikely to offer anything more substantial.

In a confidential letter to dealers, Datsun has already said that the rise in its share of the United Kingdom car market from 5.4 per cent in 1976 to 6.4 per cent this year is within the framework of the understanding between the motor industries of the United Kingdom and Japan.

Datsun is, in fact, facing a tricky dilemma. By imposing restrictions to avoid criticism, it allows other Japanese producers like Toyota and Honda—as well as European manufacturers—to mop up its lost sales.

The chairman of the action committee is Peter Fletcher who runs a big Datsun dealership in Leeds. He says that within 10 days from the start of this month he was unable to register any more new cars, and has 60-70 vehicles that cannot be delivered to customers before October 1.

"This creates a very silly situation," he said. "The first 10 days of October will show a high level of sales and then the same restriction will apply. You can't run a business like that. If the situation continues a lot of Datsun dealers will be put into financial jeopardy."

"Must clear before October 3. Six storage heaters, three large, two small." (Advertisement in Maidenhead Advertiser.)

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Shares hold on despite retreat in gilts

Gilt-edged stocks lost ground sharply as the inevitable profits were taken.

Reports suggested that foreign investors, heavily involved on Monday, were back in the market as sellers and by the close most of the longer maturities were lower by as much as 10p. Shorter dates lost up to half a point.

Equities lacked the impetus to make further progress after

Several observers have lowered their sights for Tootal which has interim figures today, not because Tootal has done anything wrong but simply because so many big groups reporting for more than a week have been disappointing. But Tootal should be confident, and today's news should be good enough to suggest profits for the year of up to £22.5m against £17.7m. Revised interim forecasts of only £3m could also be too cautious. The shares are 47p.

A bright start in the first couple of hours. But they stayed firm enough to absorb light but persistent profit taking and by the close the FT index, 3.5 up at 10 am, was just 0.7 ahead at 522.0.

Specifically consumer issues continued to attract attention on the prospect of an economic stimulus while banking shares were in good form as investors noted the rising trend in lending.

Among the best of the performances in the consumer sector were Comet Radio, better by 7p to 142p, Curry's, up by the same amount to 205p, and Baxi, down which jumped 5p to 53p.

For like reasons there were similar gains among the stores with British Home Stores leading the way with a rise of 13p

to 240p. Others supported were Mothercare, up 6p to 194p, and fourpenny gains from both GSA "A" at 31p and Marks & Spencer at 166p.

The mood spread to food issues like Rowntree Macintosh, strong since its recent figures and which rose another 12p to 412p. Associated Dairies was another well supported, at 363p, 8p better, while Wm Morrison gained 4p to 186p after figures. A renewal of bid speculation helped J. Bibby to add 5p for a finish of 161p.

The way ahead in the clearing banks was set by Midland which jumped no less than 17p to 352p. But the other clearers, also chipped in with solid gains. Lloyds going ahead 11p to 275p, National Westminster 10p to 282p and Barclays 5p to 315p.

Insurances, too, were well supported, the pick being Royal up 10p to 442p, Sun Alliance

10p to 630p. Guardian Royal Exchange 9p to 272p, Eagle Star 8p to 168p, Phoenix 6p to 294p, and still reflecting figures, brokers Willis Faber which finished 5p ahead at 305p.

The leaders generally ran out of steam but firm exceptions were to be found in Bank, which held on to a 6p gain at 266p, Pilkington, up 8p to 515p, and BAT Industries which stayed 5p ahead at 288p. After the partial disappointment at the previous day's figures, Fisons stayed steady at 350p.

Building issues to go ahead on results were brickmakers, Betscot Johnson, 10p to 144p, and Blockleys which finished with a gain of 4p to 72p. House-builder Barratt Developments, firm ahead of figures in recent days, made little progress at 112p after the announcement. In plantations both Singlo 11p to 24p and Empire Planta-

tions 3p to 26p made progress after bid developments but Advest lost 10p to 274p as hopes of terms from Rascal began to fade. Diploma Investments were helped to the extent of 6p to 171p by favourable comment but the chairman's remarks continued to depress Esperanza which was lowered another 10p to 193p, a drop of 24p in two days.

On the oil pit both BP 7p to 923p and Oil Exploration 8p to 300p lost ground, the last named as profits were taken. One factor for BP was a North Sea gas well report which was considered by dealers to be inconclusive. But Siebens Oil was wanted at 290p, firstly on talk of encouraging news soon on the ninth Brae Field well, which could upgrade the whole field, and also rumour of a sale to be worth around £4 a share.

A strong rise in interim profits and a good forecast helped Tomatin to rise 7p to 75p in the drinks sector while textile group rose no less than 40p to 455p after strong full-year figures and a scrip.

Two reporting in paper and printings were United News-

Henrys was well supported on speculation that Heron Motor may soon make a decision about its 27 per cent stake bought from Brown Brothers almost a year ago. Heron has already made a paper profit of around £1.5m on the deal but the betting is that it will make a full scale bid. Henrys shares closed 7p better at 130p.

papers, better by 7p to 303p, and Oxy Printing which ended with a gain of 2p to 47p. Another in the sector was Waterhouse where the scrip had the shares 10p to the good at 88p.

In properties speculative interest boosted Compco 13p to 113p while Stock Conversion was a firm stop in a generally subdued sector gaining 7p to 233p. Continued doubts over Peabody 2p to 65p after 62p. Ahead of the South Croft flotation later this week St Piran jumped 7p to 78p in the mining sector.

Equity turnover on September 26 was £36.4m (19,270 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were GEC, ICI, Shell, Marks & Spencer, BAT Ind, General Accident, Lloyds Bank, National Westminster Bank, Grand Metropolitan, Reed, GUS, A & G, GKN, Royal Insurance, Coral Leisure, Advest, Oil Exploration, Peabody Property, Diploma Investments and J. Haegas.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
AB Elco (F)	15.6(12.4)	0.91(0.65)	14.1(10.6)	3.5(3.4)	5.0(4.3)	Nil(-)
Advest (F)	0.15(0.17)	0.02(0.03)	0.30(0.31)	Nil(-)	Nil(-)	Nil(-)
Barratt Dev	99.3(81.7)	7.4(9.7)	24.9(31.4)	4.0(4.7)	7.3(6.5)	7.3(6.5)
Blockleys (I)	1.0(0.98)	0.24(0.20)	7.31(6.36)	1.0(0.9)	25.1(19)	25.1(19)
Gen Inv (I)	0.86(0.73)	0.09(0.07)	1.2(1.22)	0.3(0.3)	23.1(1)	23.1(1)
Finlay (F)	20.2(16.7)	3.3(2.7)	65.05(51.8)	2.36(2.02)	3.36(3.02)	3.36(3.02)
J. Haegas (F)	1.2(1.6)	0.33(0.37)	5.64(3.8)	1.25(1.1)	29.1(1)	29.1(1)
Tomatin Dist (I)	16.4(15.5)	1.9(1.7)	9.44(8.50)	2.5(2.2)	11.1(1)	11.1(1)
Hugh Mackay (I)	3.9(3.3)	0.19(0.17)	6.4(5.8)	3.4(2.9)	5.9(5.2)	5.9(5.2)
R. P. Martin (F)	3.2(2.9)	0.68(0.72)	6.6(6.8)	3.3(3.1)	6.1(1)	6.1(1)
MPF (F)	33.7(31.1)	1.8(1.0)	7.9(4.1)	1.0(0.8)	2.5(1.0)	2.5(1.0)
Wm Morrison (I)	40.3(38.0)	0.51(0.63)	—	Nil(7.5)	2.5(10.0)	2.5(10.0)
Oxy Printing (I)	—	33.6(44.1)	—	1.0(1.43)	11.1(1)	11.1(1)
Rustenburg (F)	—	0.63(0.70)	2.23(2.65)	0.81(0.9)	12.1(2)	12.1(2)
Solidiers Law (I)	2.5(1.8)	0.36(0.25)	1.4(1.5)	2.5(1.4)	23.1(1)	23.1(1)
Unicorn Ind (I)	34.0(24.8)	3.6(2.1)	7.3(4.3)	0.89(0.8)	7.1(1)	7.1(1)
C&W Walker (I)	2.7(2.2)	0.32(0.24)	—	—	—	—
Watnongs (I)	3.3(3.2)	0.30(0.18)	6.36(3.78)	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross dividend by 515. Profits and earnings are net. a 20 months. b Loss. c Forecast. e Res 4.7m on changed accounting basis. f Rands.

MFI shrugs aside recession and pays out one third more



Mr. Arthur Southon, chairman.

MFI Warehouses, the discount furniture specialist, seems to have had an armchair ride through the consumer spending recession.

Bucking the trend in what has been an extremely poor year for many furniture retailers, MFI managed to improve profits more than four-fifths to £1.86m on the back of a 60 per cent sales rise to £37.3m in the 12 months to May 28.

Mr. Arthur Southon, chairman, says that trading has continued on an upward track since the year ended and the group should be able to take further advantage of any general upturn in spending on consumer durables.

Growth last year came from new branches—the total grew by 13 during the year and the group now operates 55 stores mainly on out-of-town sites—as well as strong volume growth in existing centres.

The effect of higher volume growth and a slower rise in administrative costs has enabled the group to push pre-

tax margins up more than a point to 5.5 per cent.

MFI has taken advantage of the Treasury's recovery to lift its dividend back to 1972 level when profits read a peak of £2.2m pre-tax, but problems on the now discontinued mail order side knocked earnings for six. As a result this year's payment is effectively increased by a third 5.6p gross.

New store openings expected to continue at a slower rate as the group adopts a more selective approach, finding new sites, but the group is exploring possibilities overseas expansion.

Mr. Southon says that the MFI's type of knock-down furniture and the group's been looking at possibilities particularly in the United States and Holland.

Record year and 'scrip' from John Haggas

By Michael Clark
An "outstanding" performance by the spinning division of John Haggas has helped the group to another set of record profits.

In the twelve months to June 30 pre-tax profits of this West Yorkshire-based worsted spinner rose from £2.7m to £3.3m. Turnover went up by 21 per cent to £20.2m and margins widened a bit to 16.2 per cent. Earnings a share were 65.05p against 52.81p and the total dividend, of 5.09p compared with 4.57p is accompanied by a proposed scrip issue of four-for-one.

The spinning division had an outstanding year. Export sales almost doubled, and devaluation of the pound enabled the group to achieve fat margins.

But in the knitting division the flood of imported fabric and yarns persisted throughout the year.

Trading at home and overseas are depressed and the group has had to introduce short time working in some plants. Nevertheless trading profits so far this year are a record £M15.4m (15.5p). This compares with £12.3m (12.3p) in 1976. Turnover at £M15.6m (15.6p) was the high recorded in the group's history and exceeded last year's by 17.3 per cent. Extraordinary profits arose principally from sales of land by its subsidiary, the Amey Canning Corporation (Hong Kong).

These extraordinary items increased profits attributable to John Haggas Holdings by £M2.4m (£2.4p). There was a 20 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £M17.4m (£17.4p) and a 20 per cent increase in dividends to £M1.7m (£1.7p).

The six months to June 30 saw sales rise by 37 per cent to £34.0m and margins widen appreciably. Pre-tax profits soared by nearly 70 per cent to £3.62m.

The upshot was that the £467,000 interim dividend is well covered by equity earnings of £1.7m or 73p.

For last year, as a whole, Unicorn made just over £1.5m before tax. Before the latest figures analysts were going for around £6m for 1977. The group's profit will probably fall a bit short of the first six months.

By contrast, United Kingdom orders have held up surprisingly well, and the year's figures should show "a further acceptable increase".

Results from Consolidated Plantations showed an increase in turnover of 21.2 per cent to £M187.9m. Production increased as world commodity markets remained buoyant. It showed a rise in pre-tax profit of 20.7 per cent to a record £70.7m.

Commodity trading on London's Exchange was a major factor in the group's success, up by nearly 20 per cent to £102.1m in the year to June 30. Pre-tax profits rose 43.7 per cent to £3.06m.

The chairman says that the group's financial strength is evident both in the base and in the opportunities for further growth and development. He thinks that time can be taken to build up the group's strength and profitability and its range of activities.

Business appointments
Finance director for National Carbonising

Mr. P. Manley has joined the board of National Carbonising, a subsidiary of the Rascal group. He is also a director of the Rascal group.

Mr. A. T. Harvey has been appointed director of Dunlop Overseas operations. Now group director of the Dunlop group, he is also a director of the Rascal group.

Mr. G. A. Brooke has been appointed director of Dunlop Overseas operations. Now group director of the Dunlop group, he is also a director of the Rascal group.

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Much better year at Tomatin Distillers

Recovery is well under way at Tomatin Distillers. Pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 were 45 per cent up at £363,000, and the board says that there should be a further substantial improvement in profits in the second half year.

This is based on the orders for whisky, received to date, which are well in excess of the new added 7p to the shares to make them 74p.

Over the whole of last year profits reached £430,000, compared with £308,000 a year earlier and the record £317,000 made in 1974.

Mackay shows how it fought carpet slump

No one could have expected much from "Durham" carpet

Spanish venture by Dunlop and T & N

Turner and Newall has taken a 40 per cent stake in a new Spanish company, TBA Iberica SA—established with a capital of 60m pesetas (£408,000). The remainder of the equity is held by Dunlop Iberica, which is owned half by Dunlop International and half by local Spanish interests.

The new company will manufacture the TBA range of Permatex compressed asbestos fibre jointings, which are the basis of automotive and industrial gaskets, in a plant on Dunlop Iberica's factory site at Bilbao.

The plant, which is being marked by Dunlop Iberica in Spain and by the export organization of Turner & Newall elsewhere.

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Spanish venture by Dunlop and T & N

Colgate set to do better than ever

Colgate-Palmolive Company, distributors of toilet products, expects to report record high sales and profits for the third quarter, although the rate of growth may be just under that achieved in the first half.

Mr. Walter A. Hahn, vice-president finance, has said in Geneva.

In the first half, world-wide sales rose by 7 per cent to a record £1,800m (about £1,000m) from a year earlier. Net income rose more than 10 per cent to \$75.6m from the 1976 figure. In the third quarter of last year sales totalled \$88m and net income \$43.2m.

Mr. Hahn said that for the full year, Colgate-Palmolive expects record sales and profits, and in 1978, he added, results would "almost certainly exceed" those of this year. In 1976 the company reported net income of \$149.3m on sales of \$3,500m.

In the first eight months this year, Mr. Hahn said that sales were up 8 per cent from a year earlier, and net income up 10 per cent. Of this, world total sales in the United States rose by 6.5 per cent from a year earlier and profit by 7 per cent.

Westralian Sands

The operating loss of Westralian Sands of Australia for year ended June 30 amounted to \$A489,000 (about £306,000) as a turnover of \$A6.7m. This compares with a profit of \$A2.1m a year ago on a turnover of

workers. Officials at Honda say they have not reached a final agreement with authorities in the midwestern state on where to locate the factory.

Ashland Oil price cut

Ashland Chemical of Ohio says that its chemical products division lowered prices on its Admex 710 and 711 Vinyl plasticizers and added another plasticizer to the line. Ashland Chemical is a division of Ashland Oil Incorporated. Admex 710 and 711 Vinyl plasticizers are in bulk weight down three cents a lb to 51 cents from September 15. The plasticizers are used in a wide range of flexible vinyl applications.

Prieka troubles

Prieka copper mines of South Africa foresees that its resources could well be depleted in a short time with essential capital expenditure at R5.5m (about £3.6m) for the year ending June 30 and with the commencement in December of the redecoration of debentures at the rate of R2.5m a year, the chairman, Mr. R. T. Swemmer, says. He said that every facet of the mines operation continues to be critically examined with a view to maintaining the company's competitive position when copper and zinc markets are in over-supply. Last year's taxed profit was R13.7m.

Honda to extend in U.S.

The Honda Motor of Japan plans to build an assembly plant for motorcycles in Ohio, with final agreement expected by the end of this year. The group expects to spend about 10,000 yen (about £24,400) on the United States facility, with initial motorcycle production of about 3,000-5,000 units per month of large-size models bringing parts from Japan on a knock-down basis. The plant will employ about 300-400

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Ashland Oil price cut</

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SECRETARY/P.A.
Are you a well-qualified, bilingual Secretary with at least 2 years' commercial experience but now seeking a more demanding position with greater prospects? If so, it may be that this vacancy is for you. We are looking for someone to work for the young chief executive of our Merchant Bank here in the City. The ideal applicant will have fluent French, English mother tongue (and a little Spanish), be a good mixer, should be thorough and meticulous in his/her approach to work, have a sense of humour and be able to work with enthusiasm, sometimes under pressure. Normal hours are from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. The ideal candidate will probably be looking for a secretarial position for approximately 2-3 years, but with the aim to work towards prospects of a more challenging nature. Salary, a.s.a., up to £4,000 p.a. plus the usual fringe benefits. Please send details of qualifications and experience to: Box 2480 J, The Times.

La creme de la creme
also on page 26

Crème Crème

-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

Top Jobs for Executive Secretaries

Belgravia:

This is a wonderful opportunity for a young person with good audio skills, to work as a second secretary and gain experience at the very top level in the business and political world. Reasonable shorthand, a good educational background, and the personality to be able to benefit from the undoubtedly opportunities the post will bring. To £3,500 plus 75p L.V. daily.

Contact: Miss Angela Moriarty 01-235 9984

Mayfair:

Management Consultants in delightful offices, seek a secretary to deal with confidential work. A reasonable standard of shorthand and audio, and a high standard of typing and presentation are required, plus about 5 years experience in a business environment, and the ability to liaise with candidates and senior personnel. Age 25-30. The atmosphere in this company is particularly happy and vital. Starting £3,750.

Contact: Miss Jane Barnesley 01-235 9984

Mayfair:

In return for your own office in a luxurious setting, and all the involvement that goes with a genuine P.A. post, can you offer shorthand at 120 w.p.m., and typing at 70 w.p.m., plus the ability to cope in an exciting environment? You are probably about 30, unflappable and at ease with senior clients. Excellent benefits, and a generous salary starting at £3,750 with regular reviews.

Contact: Mrs. Jo Armit 01-235 9984

City: Public Relations:

Unusual opportunity to join a world famous professional organisation. In addition to supervising a small Public Relations Department, the successful applicant will give a secretarial back-up to the Press Officer. Must have a flair for administration, be smart with a pleasant telephone voice, and possess the confidence to liaise with top executives. Starting salary £3,600 with excellent prospects.

Contact: Mrs. Dawn Shafer 01-235 9984

Late night opening 6.45 pm every Thursday. Telephone Mrs. Dorothy Allison (Manager) on 01-235 9984 for an appointment at 4-5 Grosvenor Place, Hyde Park Corner, SW1.

ANTONY GIBBS HOLDINGS LTD

requires a COMMERCIAL INFORMATION MANAGER/ESS

Antony Gibbs Holdings Ltd, one of the oldest firms of merchants and bankers in the City of London, wish to appoint an experienced Information Officer to be responsible for running the Information Department which serves the companies in the Antony Gibbs Group.

The post will be attractive to graduates, or professionally qualified candidates, aged around 30 with sound commercial information experience, preferably in a City institution or industry. In addition to the requisite technical competence the ideal candidate will have the ability to mix with and inspire confidence in Senior Executives, a high degree of involvement, enthusiasm and initiative, and be able to motivate and lead staff. Salary, including a mortgage subsidy scheme, will be in the region of £5,000 p.a.

Brief but comprehensive details of career to date which will be treated in confidence should be sent to: The Personnel Officer, Antony Gibbs & Sons Ltd., 22/23 Bloomsbury St., London EC2M 7NL.

Opportunity to join a young, lively, expanding, international education company

Our Chief Executive needs a capable, efficient Secretary with organizational flair and the ability to work on own initiative. A high degree of involvement, enthusiasm and initiative, and be able to motivate and lead staff. Salary, including a mortgage subsidy scheme, will be in the region of £5,000 p.a.

If you are between 20-26 with good speeds and some secretarial experience, please write to Carol Perry at XEROX Learning Systems International Ltd., 20-22 Bedford Row, W.C.1.

SECRETARY

The Deputy Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain requires a PERSONAL SECRETARY.

The work is interesting and varied, in an extremely pleasant atmosphere. Salary £23,500; 4 weeks' holiday; subsidised restaurant. The Society is situated on the embankment at Lambeth Bridge, 15 min. walk from Waterloo Station and occupies a new building with unusually attractive offices.

Telephone the Office Manager, now, on 01-735 9141 for an interview or submit a c.v. to the Office Manager, 1 Lambeth High St., London SE1 7JN.

Make People your Business

Make those dreams of a satisfying job, personal responsibility and top career prospects come true. You can know it! You'll be free to direct your business, develop people's future lives and tackle some challenging targets. The job? Counselor in our international Organisation. You'll learn a thing or two about handling people in these action-packed days. You can make decisions fast, and are keen to take on increasing responsibility (£25+ with sound commercial experience) call me now and negotiate yourself a top salary.

Eileen Anderson, 734 0811, DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency), 225 Regent Street, W.1.

SECRETARY/P.A. with Shorthand

£3,000 to £4,200 p.a.

(depending on experience)

Interesting work dealing mainly with continental principals and U.K. customers involved in the petrochemical and North Sea Oil industry. Prestige offices, Belgravia, close to Victoria Station. Good prospects for the right efficient person. Two bonuses annually. No agents. Phone 730 6202 office hours and ask for Mr. Pearce.

La creme de la creme also on page 23

£3,700

THERE'S NOTHING
QUITE AS WONDERFUL
AS MONEY

Especially when you work for this well-known bank. They want a P.A. who will be an Executive Secretary. You will be responsible for a lot of confidential work. Good secretarial skills and a high standard of presentation are essential. You will also be responsible for a lot of confidential work. Good secretarial skills and a high standard of presentation are essential. You will also be responsible for a lot of confidential work. Good secretarial skills and a high standard of presentation are essential.

Contact: Miss Angela Moriarty 01-235 9984

APPOINTMENT
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
31 BELFORD ST., W.1

POT POURRI

We are interviewing for a lot of interesting posts.

ENGLISH/ARABIC (Import-Export) to run London office of Arab-based company. Good salary, £4,000 p.a. and 4 weeks' holiday.

ENGLISH/GERMAN (Import-Export) to run London office of German-based company. Good salary, £4,000 p.a. and 4 weeks' holiday.

ENGLISH/GERMAN/FRENCH (Import-Export) to run London office of French-based company. Good salary, £4,000 p.a. and 4 weeks' holiday.

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES
32 CHARING CROSS, LONDON W.C.2
01-583 5141

PERSONNEL OFFICER

required for a newly established Personnel Department of a private company in London's West End. Total responsibility for the personnel function. Staff 100 initially and 150 thereafter.

Salary £3,500-£4,500

PLEASE PHONE 499 455

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

As Secretary to the Personnel Officer and Training Officer of this large international company you will be able to develop a good working knowledge of personnel systems, recruitment and staff management structures. You'll have your own conditions of office and the opportunity to grow and develop within this interesting field.

Telephone EILEEN DAY 01-432 7121, HUDSON PERSONNEL

MANAGEMENT c. £4,500

Our International leading firm has a vacancy for a young person with good secretarial skills and a high degree of involvement, enthusiasm and initiative, and be able to motivate and lead staff. Salary, including a mortgage subsidy scheme, will be in the region of £5,000 p.a.

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SENIOR SECRETARIES

173 New Bond Street W1Y 9PB
01-493 0922-01-493 5907

NEW CHAIRMAN UPTO £4,000

He is young, bright and has just had his first year of experience as a young man. He is a very good person with good secretarial skills and a high degree of involvement, enthusiasm and initiative, and be able to motivate and lead staff. Salary, including a mortgage subsidy scheme, will be in the region of £5,000 p.a.

PLEASE MISS BRIDGET NICHOLSON

SENIOR SECRETARIES

3/6 TRINITY STREET W1Y 9PB
01-493 0922-01-493 5907

SECRETARY AT LLOYDS

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SECRETARY AT LLOYDS



-Stepping Stones-Non-Secretarial-Secretarial & General-Tempting Times-

NON-SECRETARIAL

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

We are a friendly go-ahead company, specialising in the recruitment of top secretarial staff, and we are looking for someone to manage our Temporary Secretaries. It is a demanding job requiring good organising skills, a mature attitude and an interest in people.

If you have experience in Personnel, an abundance of energy and are looking for a rewarding career with a salary of £4,000+ please telephone Diana Fawkes

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International Congress Organisers need

Youngish Girl/Man Friday

Attractive personality, ability to type, until London Congress ends May 72. Salary negotiable.

Telephone Miss Young 01-428 3351

SALES ADMIN AND CLIENT LIAISON

Presenting, non-pressured role. High class, dedicated, young person with a good telephone manner. Liaison between sales and clients. Good salary, £4,000 p.a. and 4 weeks' holiday.

Telephone Miss Young 01-428 3351

BOOKKEEPER to Total Balance Sheet

Typing, £3,500 p.a. and 4 weeks' holiday.

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CAROLYN BRUNN requires dedicated person for

experience for night/nightingale shop. Phone 604 4512.

YOUNG, IMAGINATIVE person to

manage a small, busy, busy office. Good salary, £4,000 p.a. and 4 weeks' holiday.

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